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2 February 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2441

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NEW APPROACH TO OIL POLICY PROPOSED

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 18 Dec 81 pp 46-49

[Article by R.F.T.: "Keys to a Revolution"]

[Excerpt] A revolutionary idea, which can radically change the country's future, has already come out at the start of the runway and is racing at full speed to take off. The series of rumors surrounding the possible candidates for the job of minister of economy had much to do with that project bursting upon the scene. Until a few days ago, this was the almost exclusive subject of informal talks between economists, businessmen, and even some high government officials. What did this have to do with the rumors about future ministers of economy? As nobody is unaware that the battle against inflation is underway and since this battle has its inevitable outcome in the form of a recession, the eyes of newspapermen and professional experts were directed toward possible schemes that might be advanced by each one of the candidates to the position at Hipolito Yrigoyen 250 so as to prevent a drop in economic activity. Or so at least it seems. One of these candidates is former minister Roberto Alemann and the idea that the Civil Code should govern petroleum activities is credited to him. But what does it mean to have the Civil Code govern petroleum exploration and exploitation? It means nothing more and nothing less than placing the subsoil under private control by giving ownership of it to the owner of the surface land. In other words, the owner of the land where wheat is planted, where vines are planted, or where the sheep of Patagonia grazes. This would not turn Argentina into a Kuwait of the Southern Zone but the transformation could be as profound as the fact that exporting petroleum might almost become a secondary thing.

In order to keep progressing, the country must increase its exports significantly, like a company that must increase its sales if it is to get ahead.

What else can we export? Cereal crops? To do that, we would have to clear new areas and use much new technology. What about meat? Here we run into the subsidies and obstacles of the European Community and competition from the Eastern European countries. Industry? Development requires hefty subsidies which are difficult to get now. Fishing? That could add quite a bit but not enough. So, what product can in a few years give us a large foreign-exchange income? The answer is simple: petroleum and gas.

In Argentina, something like 800 wells are drilled each year. Canada drills 8,000 and the United States drills 80,000. It is usually believed that the Argentine

deposits are not very productive. That springs from comparisons with those of the Middle East, Venezuela, or even Mexico. In Argentina, the average is 12 cubic meters of petroleum per day and per well. In the United States, the average is only 3 cubic meters; even so, they finish drilling 250 wells each day, and nobody is bothered by the fact that in the Arabian desert or in the Venezuelan sea there are wells which yield 500 or 1,000 cubic meters of petroleum per day.

The nation's statistics show that, with 800 new wells drilled during the year, the output would go up between 3 or 4 percent (for this year it has been calculated that the increase would be only 1 percent). Therefore, if we drill 3,000 or 4,000 wells, it would not be unreasonable to think that Argentina could increase its petroleum output to the equivalent of at least \$1 billion per year. But is there a buyer market for that petroleum? The shipping rate advantages place some worthwhile customers practically at our doorstep: Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, South Africa, and thirsty Brazil. Besides, the high price currently fixed by OPEC will only help these operations along. Just 20 years ago, petroleum prices were around \$20 per cubic meter. Today they are at \$200, a level which business operators in this sector consider appropriate for competition. "Argentina can do it," businessmen and economists concluded when the topic comes up for discussion. This is a discussion which possibly might break out into a full debate any moment.

But how are we going to drill 3,000 or 4,000 wells in place of the current 800? Can YPF [Government Oil Deposits] do the job? The government petroleum enterprise is heavily in debt and in one way or another would require public funds which the country is unable to provide today. Who, then, could do it? Private enterprise. How? One way is through a contract. Right now, through this system, the private sector is producing 35 percent of the nation's crude. Just 5 years ago, it produced 20 percent. And that is not very much. Another way is presented by the so-called Gotelli Law. It authorizes the government to grant concessions to private enterprises. But this is a law which, for each contract, requires political decisions of the Yacyreta type, with all of the delays and all of the heavy-handed processing inherent in this type of operation. The simplest way (and the way which is now being analyzed almost daily not only by Alemann but also by anybody who is attracted to the idea) is to return the subsoil to private control.

The Civil Code is the legal tool. Here it is stated that the owner of the piece of land is the owner for the purpose of using it, disposing of it, and abusing it. But the Mining Code takes that subsoil ownership away and landowners are only the owners of subsoil with rocks or quarries. That is an old tradition. Originally, the king was the owner and he wanted to make sure that the crown would share in the results of the work of those who were attracted by the mountains of gold and silver which they believed to be there. This was a gift that came from the king. In the United States, those who came to take the land did not come to conquer gold and silver mines. They fundamentally escaped religious and political persecution. Their ambition was liberty and in that way they possessed the soil and the subsoil. South of the Rio Grande, the subsoil was equivalent to minerals and the minerals belonged to the crown. Petroleum later on was added to gold and silver. The day after the discovery of petroleum in Comodoro Rivadavia, the government ordered the establishment of a reserve for the state. On that same day it placed hydrocarbons under the Mining Code. Now, the provinces keep demanding that the national government collect the royalties.

With the implementation of the Civil Code (the proposal says), it will be the landowner who will call in a specialized company to determine whether there is petroleum in his subsoil. According to experience gathered in countries where this policy is pursued (the United States, Canada, some countries in the Middle East, and South Korea), one usually calls in a drilling and producing company. If petroleum is found, the landowner sells it to the company with which he contracted or they figure out a percentage amount, as is done by a tenant farmer in dealing with the landowner where wheat or some other cereal crop is to be planted. In this way petroleum would come to be a product which would be sold on the market, like any other.

But, what would be the immediate consequence? Well, the landowners, for example, in Patagonia, who today have a very low yield, would venture into this field and would try to come to an agreement with the drilling companies to find out whether or not they have petroleum there. The supporters of this idea of turning the subsoil over to private ownership assure us that, in a very short time, "one could not travel throughout Patagonia without hearing the noise of drilling equipment and the blasting connected with seismological prospecting." And what is the YPF doing? It can sell its current wells although it is not very likely that the landowner will want to continue to be associated with the government enterprise which is already installed on his fields. The new fields indeed would be left exclusively for private enterprise. In this scheme, YPF would handle the job of refining and distribution only, which is the most profitable. With the sale of equipment, the government enterprise could wipe out its tremendous liabilities and, as far as personnel is concerned, there would be a shortage in view of the expansion of drilling operations and exploitation. Although this is not the intended objective here, the form would also help solve the problem of something like 6,000 highway construction companies who are facing a difficult situation because of the treasury's investment problems. These enterprises could quickly switch to petroleum activities with which they are related to a certain degree. Another reactivation could come about in the steel industry due to the need for pipes. We must realize that each well takes about something like 2 kilometers of pipes. Besides, industrial enterprises would also convert to go into the manufacture of equipment.

In the United States, drilling work is done by small companies (the so-called wildcatters) and exploitation is also in the hands of small producers. The big enterprises refine and distribute. In Argentina however, because of the characteristics of the contract system, drilling must be done by the big enterprises who must take over large areas to make their business profitable. Of course, the suggestion of placing the subsoil under private control does not take into account exploration and exploitation on the continental shelf which the Civil Code on the other hand recognizes to be national property.

The promoters of the idea maintain that there is petroleum from Tierra del Fuego, going through Neuquen, Chubut, Santa Cruz, and all the way to the southern part of Mendoza, hoping that they would explore it and exploit it. In the northern part of the country (Salta and Jujuy) there are also major deposits although the operation is difficult here because they are deep down. Apart from the economic advantages, there is a strategic advantage: The effective occupation of Patagonia with fully-employed people and the fact that the area becomes a petroleum exporter. But, in political terms, this may signify a revolution of continental and even worldwide proportions, according to the most enthusiastic supporters; this involves the

definite elimination of colonial vestiges which could easily spread to the rest of Latin America, expanding the meaning of property ownership as a barrier to the advance of Marxist groups.

Does any of this, as it begins to emerge into the light of day, have anything to do with what President Frondizi and his administration had done earlier? Frondizi started with a situation of total government control over the petroleum industry: the subsoil, exploration, production, transportation, refining, and distribution were in the hands of the state. The only thing private was made up of the gas stations. The Constitution of 1949 included a provision to the effect that the subsoil was the imprescriptible and inalienable property of the state. Frondizi managed to make sure that YPF would enter into contracts with private individuals in order to turn the management of petroleum drilling over to private control. Nothing more. But he took the first step toward denationalization which, with the current idea, would progress from a very marginal degree of private control (such as the one achieved by Frondizi) to a much more profound degree of private control.

The revival of petroleum exploration and exploitation would add one more advantage: it would improve tax collection. "A piece of land zoned as pasture land for wool cattle is not the same as a piece of land zoned as an oil field," is one of the arguments. But petroleum is a business which involves vast sums of money and where all taxes are involved: the VAT, the tax on profits (which the national government would collect for redistribution to the provinces), the capital tax and even some export duties (provided for in the national constitution) to prevent the higher prices paid internationally from being shifted to the domestic market. Finally, if considered viable, a domestic tax could be placed on fuels for the purpose of improving the tax balance.

An undertaking of this nature certainly will run into the kind of political snags which naturally spring from confusion between nationalism and statism. But if we get into a debate on that, this will perhaps serve to confirm the change in outlook which is hinted at in almost all political and economic documents of recent times. The multiparty approach here (which continues to argue in favor of massive wage hikes, more government expenditures for subsidies, foreign exchange controls, etc.) would not promote any further statization. This was a detail that was very much in the mind of those who propose a debate on this idea of petroleum development because, if it is to work, we would need the confidence necessary for any investment of this magnitude. Of course, furthermore, a future government might find itself in a situation where there are several thousands of wells operated by Argentine private outfits which would mean that attempting statization would imply swimming against the current. This might even be likened to an attempt at an agrarian reform. How much time does the mechanism take to get started and to work? Those who propose the idea estimate that one year would be necessary for conversion, for personnel recruitment, for collecting capital, and drawing up the contracts. During the second year, drilling operations and exploitation would be in progress and from then on the process would be cumulative.

"This is an undertaking which takes us right into the future," say those who are beginning to support the idea. "With this kind of policy, the foreign debt will practically be refinanced. This would be happening simply because we would no longer be a petroleum exporter, here and now, but because we would be an exporter

only of power," some people say enthusiastically. In this way, they say, the manufacturing industry would have an assured source of foreign exchange with which to buy the raw materials and semifinished products which it needs. And the state would get out from under the Sword of Damocles to the effect that foreign exchange reserves might run out at any moment, which is why the threat of devaluations always continues to be latent. Besides, if we pursue a reasonable monetary policy, the country would embark on the road of sure progress.

Of course, natural doubt arises in response to all this enthusiasm (even though this recent idea is now beginning to take root). And what if they come from abroad to buy the oil land? Those who support the idea of turning the subsoil over to private control assure us that the landowners will stay there for the simple reason that they have a petroleum business ahead of themselves and "the landowners are not crazy." Will this affect sovereignty and security? Here is the answer: Effective sovereignty will be increased because it provides negotiating power internationally and increases security as the desert of Patagonia is occupied. Besides, it would do away with one of the oldest taboos of common statism by opening up for the country a new panorama for contemplating other revolutions which have been postponed.

The idea has been launched. The debate--and why not--the challenge are to come.

5058

CSO: 3210/99

NEW GAS PIPELINE SEEN BREAKTHROUGH FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 21 Dec 81 p 8

[Text] The recent opening of the Central-Western Pipeline is of particular importance for two reasons: in the first place, it is a decisive step toward greater utilization of natural gas; in the second place, it shows that it is possible to delegate to the private sector those investments which until now have been reserved for the public sector. This project consists of 1,800 kilometers of pipes, and expands existing transport facilities by 33 percent. It was carried out through a concession system over a period of 21 months, and with an investment of approximately \$1 billion. The contractor will operate the gas pipeline for 15 years, and then the facilities will come under the domain of the State Gas Enterprise.

At the head of the pipeline there is a treatment plant that separates the different usable components for petrochemical processes (ethane, propane, butane and gasoline). Up to 110,000 tons of products will be extracted for that industry each year.

The new system has five compressor plants to propel up to 10 million cubic meters per day through the conduits.

Of the 600 billion cubic meters of proven gas reserves in the country, 400 billion are in Neuquen, where this pipeline starts. Thus, by means of a genuine effort of federal integration, the provinces of Mendoza, San Juan, San Luis, Cordoba, Santa Fe and Buenos Aires all will be able to utilize this new source of energy. At the end of its run, the Central-Western Pipeline joins the Northern Pipeline at San Jeronimo, Santa Fe. The construction of the San Jeronimo-Buenos Aires stretch, parallel to the existing one, will reinforce transport facilities to the federal capital and to Greater Buenos Aires.

The recent discovery of large proven natural gas reserves and the construction of projects such as this pipeline are part of an overall energy program that demands far-reaching changes. On the one hand, consumers of fuel-oil will have to modify their thermal energy plants, installing gas burners. Distilleries will have to take steps such as those already envisioned by Government Oil Deposits (YPF) to produce less fuel-oil and more light byproducts. Consumers must realize that these projects are made possible by the high prices imposed by the energy crisis, and therefore should be aware of the need for careful conservation and rational use.

Industries, in turn, will find new comparative advantages for the development of petrochemical projects involving methanol or liquefied gas. Government officials will find in the Central-Western Pipeline a satisfactory example of the fruits that can be obtained through private enterprise in this kind of project, and of the way the government, free of the need to make such investments, can devote its resources and efforts to the objectives entrusted to it by the Constitution.

8926

CSO: 3010/583

ENERGY PRODUCTION FIGURES SHOW MODERATE INCREASE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 22 Dec 81 p 6

[Text] During the first 11 months of 1981, the production of merchantable grade coal rose by 31.5 percent, while petroleum production increased by 1.2 percent and the injection of natural gas by 1.3 percent. The generation of electricity, however, fell by 1.4 percent, according to the energy report for last November released by the Ministry of Public Works and Services.

Coal

Last November coal production totaled 25,800 tons, 14.2 percent more than the same month the year before. Between January and November 482,000 tons were produced, 115,000 tons more than during the same period of 1980.

Petroleum

Oil production last month amounted to 2,385,600 cubic meters (0.6 percent less than in November of 1980). During the first 11 months of the year petroleum production reached 26,390,900 cubic meters (312,400 cubic meters more than the same period of 1980).

Oil imports totaled 1,220,800 cubic meters during the first 11 months of 1981, a 43.3 percent drop, and were valued at \$267 million, a 40.5 percent drop. Total expenditures for imports of fuel and byproducts fell by 7.5 percent, totaling \$871 million.

On the other hand, exports brought in 129 percent more foreign currency than last year, a total of \$527 million.

Gas

Last November a total of 869.6 million cubic meters was injected at the head of the gas pipeline (a 5.4 percent increase), and during the first 11 months of the year that figure amounted to 9.3085 billion cubic meters.

Electricity

Last month a total of 2,878,569 MWh of electricity was generated, 0.8 percent more than during the same month of 1980. The first 11 months of the year showed a total of 32,166,726 MWh. It should be noted that this year the proportion of nuclear energy grew from 6.4 percent to 8 percent of the total.

8926

CSO: 3010/583

TESORO CRUDE PRODUCTION UP IN '80; NATURAL GAS SALES DOWN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Dec 81 p 4

[Text]

THE operations of Trinidad Tesoro showed an upward trend in crude oil recovery during the year 1980, but there was a sizeable drop in sales of natural gas.

According to the company's annual report for the year ending September 30, 1980, crude oil production for that year was 13.7 million barrels, an increase of 629,500 barrels over the 1979 figure of 13.1 million barrels. This takes in land and offshore production.

Land production increased slightly by 101,900 barrels to 7.2 million in 1980, the oil being obtained from 1,333 producing wells. This was 43 more wells than in 1979.

Special efforts were taken to increase production by waterflooding, steam injection and other secondary recovery devices.

Offshore oil production for the fiscal year 1980 rose by just over half a million barrels to 6.5 million barrels, coming from 118 producing wells. A large increase came from the Galeota producing area, where Trinidad Tesoro plans to continue exploratory drilling.

The picture was not so rosy in the Trinmar offshore production, one third of which is owned by Tesoro. From 5.3 million barrels in 1979 production fell to 4.9 million barrels in 1980.

With the completion of two production platforms and extension of an existing platform in 1981, it was hoped to reverse the trend by the end of this year.

Trinidad Tesoro also saw a fall in gas sales, from 12 million cubic feet per day in 1979 to 10.8 million cubic feet in 1980, the decline being caused by a decrease in gas ashore from Trinmar.

For the year a total of 3,934 million cubic feet was sold, with Federation Chemicals being the main customer, followed by Texaco Trinidad and Industrial Gases Ltd.

Over the year, the company continued with its agricultural programme, working some 5,000 acres of citrus, cocoa, coffee and with 217 heads of cattle produced 36,950 gallons of milk.

Agricultural operations are conducted by Trinidad Tesoro Agricultural Company Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary, employing 200 workers.

In addition to cocoa, coffee and citrus, the company is branching into avocado and mangoes on a small scale. As in other parts of the country, agriculture is plagued by praedial larceny.

The farm produced 17,300 pounds of cocoa, 164,800 pounds of coffee, 25,000 crates of grapefruits and 6,000 crates of oranges.

CSO: 3025/106

BRIEFS

OIL EXPLORATION PRIORITY--San Fernando--Mr. Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, said yesterday that Government will give priority to exploration in the oil industry next year. Most of the exploration will be on land and any problem which may develop at Trintoc during the exercise, Government will look actively into. He made the comment after touring the operations of Trintoc at Point Fortin following a conference held with senior officials of the company at the Administration Building. He said that exploration facilities will be aimed at stimulating and improving the level of production. The Minister said Trintoc's programme for next year will also include drilling ten exploratory wells in the Parry Lands field. The company intends to drill deeper, up to 12,000 feet. He said exploration [as published] of gas in the Gulf of Paria--a new discovery--was taking place. The Minister said Trintoc also proposes to upgrade a large quantity of fuel oil to a higher quality. He was pleased to state that the local administration has shown its ability to manage properly the affairs of the company. He is to conduct a similar tour to Texaco next year. Tomorrow he is to meet with the Trintoc management to discuss proposals for refinery development. Mr. Andrew Rose, chairman of the board, said the main objective of the Minister's tour was to familiarise himself with the activities of the present operation and to look into future objectives. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 3025/106

BARBADOS, ST LUCIA, ST VINCENT EYE JOINT COASTGUARD PLAN

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Barbados and neighbouring St. Lucia and St. Vincent, are making united efforts to meet, search and rescue emergencies.

Barbados' Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and Security and Chairman of the Central Emergency Relief Organisation (CERO), Mr. Gilbert Millar, said yesterday that these territories had expressed the wish to form a co-ordinated regional coastguard to improve the effectiveness of the individual countries in such duties as search and rescue.

Mr. Millar said: "Although bound to certain technical agreements by a memorandum of understanding, this concept does not in any way interfere with the independence of the individual coastguard units, but allows rapid co-ordination of resources in an emergency.

"I am sure that other groups of neighbouring countries have similar agreements and it would be a logical step to allow an overall co-ordination of these agreements and resources to be made possible under the guidance of IMCO."

The Barbados Permanent Secretary was delivering the feature address at a five-day seminar at the Dover Convention Centre, Christ Church, on "Maritime Search and Rescue".

The more than 50 participants are drawn from the British, Dutch, Spanish and French-speaking Caribbean, as well as Latin America.

The seminar is sponsored and directed by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO).

In his feature address at the seminar, Mr. Millar said: "We are fortunate in this part of the world to have warm seas, clear horizons and generally fair weather for the greater part of the year."

"Even so, we are constantly made aware of the sea and its dangers, and from time to time, this awareness is sharpened by some maritime disaster which hits the news headlines."

"We only need to think back a few days to the severe storms off Bermuda which sank a West German freighter with the loss of all but one of her crew.

"Many people in this room have had to cross the sea by one means or another to attend this seminar and most will probably have given thought, however fleeting, to the possibility that the lifebelt, under his or her seat, might one day have to be used in earnest."

Mr. Millar added: "All of us come from countries which are dependent in so many ways upon the sea and the air-space above it for economic survival, whether this dependence be upon the transport of trade, tourists and business people to our countries, or for the exploitation of off-shore resources, or for fisheries or for leisure.

"It therefore behoves all of our countries to devote some of our respective economies to the provision of sea rescue services and organisations."

The CERO chairman pointed out that since its inception, IMCO had been working towards improved standards of safety at sea, both in design and construction of ships and in such measures as the control of shipping through congested areas and the rationalisation of buoyage systems.

He added: "Let us make no mistake about this. Disasters at sea and in the air know no international boundaries, and where human life is at stake, those of us fortunate enough to be safe on land must be ready to let the rescue organisations and craft of a better equipped neighbour have rapid access to the scene if the need arises."

Mr. Millar said that he looked to much "stimulating comment and discussion" during the week at the seminar.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Mr. Peter

Wickenden, Transport economist with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) Office in Trinidad and Tobago.

He congratulated Mr. Millar on his Gold Crown of Merit (GCM) award in this year's Independence awards. Mr. Millar received lusty cheers on this from the gathering at the seminar.

Mr. Walter deGoede, head of the Navigation Section of IMCO, said that it was particularly appropriate that the seminar was held in "this beautiful island of Barbados."

He thanked the Barbados Government for its hospitality and generosity and the Government of the Netherlands for its financial support. He hoped for successful deliberations.

The five-day seminar will be chaired by Captain Earl L. Sullivan, Chief of the United States Coast Guard, based in Washington.

CSO: 3025/107

U.S. SAID TO MISCONSTRUE DEVELOPMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Dec 81 p 4

[Article by Frank Viviano]

[Text] Recent statements by US Secretary of State Alexander Haig leave no doubt that the Reagan administration has accorded a special role in its foreign policy to Nicaragua.

In Haig's view, Nicaragua is a "totalitarian" nation, a dangerous Soviet-controlled state committed to the spread of Marxist-Leninism. The administration, he says, will not exclude the use of direct military action to curtail that threat.

This view misconstrues what is actually happening in Central America today just as thoroughly as it underestimates what would be required to halt it.

Far from being in tightly-controlled Soviet or Cuban puppet, Nicaragua bears more resemblance to the pluralistic experiment of Lech Walesa's Poland. In fact, Nicaragua may be dangerous because it is America's Poland. It threatens long-held assumptions of passivity with a new and fierce insistence on self-determination.

Nicaragua is the most dramatic product of fundamental changes sweeping across all of Latin America.

It makes little sense to discuss the charge of totalitarianism in Sandinista Nicaragua without acknowledging the raw realities that prevailed in that country during the long nightmare of the Somoza era, and which prevail still in its neighbours, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—America's allies and military clients.

"We used to say that if you didn't have malaria, you couldn't really be Nicaraguan," observed Minister of Health Lea Guido.

"Our infant mortality rate was one of the highest on earth. In rural areas less than 10 per cent of our people even had latrines. The problem of malnutrition was evident everywhere around us in dying children and swollen bellies. That was Nicaragua under Somoza."

"Here in Central America it is not communism that moves us: it is the misery that reduces us to the level of animals," said Marcial Euceda, leader of the national peasants' union in neighbouring Honduras. "It is not a matter of Marxism. It is a matter of hunger, poverty and disease."

As the daily body count in US newspapers illustrates, it is also a matter of inconceivably brutal violence. In El Salvador or Guatemala, murder is the expected price for stating one's political opinion too freely.

By contrast, US Charge d'Affaires Thomas O'Donnell admitted to me at the American Embassy in Managua this June: "Nicaragua is a country at peace with itself—social peace—and in Central America that is an impressive achievement."

Peace, of course, is a tenuous business in this region. It would be naive to assume that the openness and enthusiasm that greeted travellers to Nicaragua in the

summer cannot have been shaken since by threats of destruction from the most powerful nation on the globe. Confronted with a de facto economic blockade intended to starve it, with exile troops training in Florida to invade it, and with constant charges of interference in El Salvador, Nicaragua is an embattled nation.

But it would be a serious mistake to conclude that signs of embattlement are a prelude to the unravelling of what has happened in Nicaragua. This has, in almost every sense, been a distinctive revolution.

Nicaragua has no Ayatollah or Fidel Castro, whose overthrow might alone topple an entire structure. Instead, there is in Nicaragua a process that has its roots deep in the life of the peasants who comprise the great bulk of its people, and in the alliance between those peasants and Latin America's most formidable institution—the Roman Catholic Church.

The basic organisational unit of this revolution was not the political cell conjured up by Mr. Haig's Soviet-dominated scenario. It was the village church. "Christianity is the main inspiration of our revolution," said Minister of Culture Ernesto Cardenal, one of the many priests who hold office in the Nicaraguan government.

Since the dawn of liberation theology in the late sixties, a dawn brought on by the Church's own recognition that conditions for most peasants

were growing steadily worse, this inspirational role has been a feature of life all over Latin America. But Nicaragua is its first great landmark, and that, more than anything else, may explain why Nicaragua is so dangerous.

"Of course, we all took heart from what happened there," said Marcial Eueda of the Honduran peasants' reaction to Somoza's overthrow. "All peasants have the same problems, and in a way we all have the same enemies."

"From the very beginning, we have said that the best support we could give El Salvador or our other neighbours was our own example," remarked Sergio Ramirez, a

member of the Nicaraguan Council of State. "If we cannot consolidate the Nicaraguan revolution, if we cannot keep our processes open and pluralistic, it will take another century for Latin America to move forward."

But perhaps the greatest menace to the Nicaraguan revolution and the American position alike is that a campaign of ceaseless harassment and encirclement will, indeed, transform Nicaragua into a Cuba—an uneasy fortress, permanently ridden with insecurity.

Yet Sergio Ramirez, too, may be underestimating the transformation that has taken hold in Latin America over the past decade. Astonishing pockets of self-awareness, of

resistance to unnecessary brutality, have emerged almost everywhere in the vast expanse between the Rio Grande and the Straits of Magellan.

Religion, growing literacy, the mass-communications explosion and a dozen other factors have combined, particularly among the young who comprise the largest sector of the population, to bring hope and determination into Latin America's villages. The passivity of centuries has been broken.

— The power of the American military could prove sufficient to destroy the Nicaraguan landmark. Can it as easily reverse the tides of change?

REGIONAL STATES IN LOME CONVENTION TO GET EEC FUNDS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Barbados and other Caribbean countries which are members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) grouping, are to receive an estimated U.S.\$420 million (Bds \$840 million) under the second Lome Agreement.

The money to be spread over a five-year period is being made available by the European Economic Community (EEC) to which the ACP states are linked by the agreement.

Lome II came into effect in January this year, and expires in 1985.

An EEC bulletin has said that since the end of last year, programming missions from the European Development Fund, and the European Investment Bank, had visited all ACP states in the region and the broad lines of projects to be carried out had emerged.

The bulletin said that of the missions, agriculture and fisheries were being given top priority, followed by social infrastructure, health, training and technical assistance; and energy.

Other areas are tourism and trade promotion, transport and communications and microprojects.

The bulletin also stated that in the course of the missions, some States had indicated their interest in having certain projects financed by the EIB.

The mission visited Barbados last June.

The bulletin further stated that it is probable that a considerable share of the allocation to the region will be used for the continuation of certain projects already started under the fourth EDF, namely sea and air transport and communications.

It noted that just as some of the regional funds under the fifth EDF will be used to continue and develop existing programmes so the national programmes will contain elements of continuity.

There are 10 states in the Caribbean which are signatory to the second Lome Convention.

There are Barbados, Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Nine more territories are associated with the EEC under the "Decision on the Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)".

They are Anguilla, Antigua, Belize, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, and the British Virgin Islands. They all enjoy virtually the same relationship with the EEC.

CSO: 3025/107

FORMER PRESIDENT ONGANIA ISSUES POLITICAL DOCUMENT

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Dec 81 p 6

[Text] Gen (Ret) Juan Carlos Ongania, former president of the nation, has issued a formal statement "to all Argentines" advocating, among other things, a return to the republican system of government, the gradual restoration of political activity, increased participation by the workers in the national income, and an economic plan that will assert "our sovereignty and freedom of decision."

The document, which was published today, is Ongania's second public statement, preceded as it was by Ongania's "economic proposal" released in mid-August, in which he criticized severely the "financial policy-makers, consisting of a tiny group of persons."

According to sources close to the former president, the document, titled "Bases for a National Consensus," had been sent previously to political figures not involved in the multiparty convocational plan, to retired military officers and to business leaders.

Based on those initial contacts, these sources said, a definitive proposal will be drawn up which could be published around the end of the first half of next year.

Aims

The aims being sought by the convocation, the document says, are rooted in "the restoration of faith and public morality, and of our basic institutions, and in the elimination of influences by improper interests and fraudulent complicities, which are degrading to the dignity of the Republic."

The document also contains a sharp criticism of the present government lineup, the publication of which around the end of August of this year resulted in a severe reprimand of the former president by the Army High Command.

Clarification

The document goes on to clarify that its basic intent is rooted in "the common good," and issues a call to "the younger generations of Argentines who are being disadvantaged by a policy that excludes them from participating in the solution of our major problems."

Ongania then launches into a spirited defense of education, "which must begin in the family and which must tend toward the full capacitation of the Argentines as regards not only their moral and physical perfection but also as regards the defense of our values and traditions."

Social Policy

Another of the issues addressed by the document is that of our social policy, in regard to which it advocates "an effective social justice" within the framework of "an adequate economic return and guarantees in law that protect the labor-management relationship."

"By this means," it adds, "productive action and greater participation by the workers in the national income must be coordinated and fomented."

To this effect, it calls for the return of "the trade unions to their natural leaders, and of social work projects to those who instituted them through their contributions, under the indispensable and efficient control of the state."

Economy

Addressing the economic problem area, Ongania's proposal states that it is "taking on aspects that are leading to collapse," which it attributes to the "model instituted by the Process as well as to the latter's organization and staffing."

It goes on then to reiterate the need for "a structured central authority" that will ensure "the preeminence of our national interest in the field of economic activity, as a means of asserting our sovereignty and freedom of decision."

Failure and Exhaustion

It states in this regard that "The institutional scheme ratified by the National Reorganization Process has revealed its failure and exhaustion," in that "It is proving impotent to overcome its own contradictions and restore a minimum degree of public credibility, and is drawing the entire country into its state of inoperancy."

It then calls for "the restoration of the presidential image and the consequent subordination of the Armed Forces to presidential authority."

Law

From a strictly political standpoint, the document stresses that "Governmental action must take place within a system of law."

It adds in this same regard, "There must be a full return to our institutions of public law, and a reimplantation of the republican system of separation of powers, of the representational system of electing government authorities, and of the federalist system that restores to the provinces their leading role."

Political Associations

As regards the role of political associations, Ogonia advocates "the gradual return to those instrumentalities that characterize the democratic system."

Nevertheless, it states that the political parties must "take on their proper character of authentic representativeness, through a vigorous reordering process," and rules out "any notion that a mere deferral to them would suffice to consider the political situation duly resolved."

Sovereignty

With respect to foreign policy, Ogonia advocates "the most zealous defense of the principle of national sovereignty," not only as regards territorial integrity but also "the safeguard of our culture, our way of life and our economic interests."

He goes on to reiterate some of the concepts of his economic proposal, stating that "Today's crisis is basically financial," and that "as long as speculation continues to be the best course of business, the national wealth will continue mortgaged to the limit, beyond the limits of its material riches."

He adds that "The government must set the example by definitively putting its finances in order." and that "Capital and labor must be oriented toward the immediate development of our resources."

Fiscal Policy

From a fiscal standpoint, the document advocates "A policy that will unremittingly and unbiasedly foment production, labor and reinvestment, and that will stamp out speculation and idle capital."

It also sets forth the need to "counteract unemployment at its sources," but proposes, for the most urgent cases, measures "capable of alleviating the situation of those who are now and who are likely to continue unemployed."

The document ends with the statement that "We will not be deterred by any circumstance that is not identifiable with the basic interests of the nation."

9399

CSO: 3010/575

PERONIST IN EXILE COMMENTS ON PARTY'S LEADERSHIP, GALTIERI

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 21 Dec 81 p 4

[Article: "Romero Seeks to Assume Peronist Leadership"]

[Text] Asuncion, 20 Dec (UP)--Julio Romero, former Peronist governor and friend of President-designate Leopoldo Galtieri, from his place of exile in Asuncion has taken initial steps in his effort to assume the leadership of his party in Argentina.

In recent months, Romero has received the visits of various Peronist delegations at his residence--Comandante Franco, 413--somewhat as did the late Former President Juan Domingo Peron during his exile at his ranch "17 October" near Madrid.

The former governor of the province of Corrientes believes that Former President Isabel Peron, who was ousted by the Armed Forces in 1976, can no longer unite the Peronist party, and that a new force is needed to fill the leadership gap.

Protection in Asuncion

Although asserting that he does not wish for the moment to make any formal statements, he did authorize a United Press correspondent, to whom he has granted an interview, to write his impressions of their conversation.

Romero, a man of some 60 years of age, lives in a two-story villa and is guarded by Paraguayan police.

Over the couch in his living room hangs a diploma inscribed with an apostolic benediction from Pope John Paul II to Romero and his wife.

Commenting on his governance from 1973 to 1976, Romero laid much emphasis on the absence of problems of maladministration in Corrientes.

Nor were there any partisanship problems, since the Armed Forces, the Church and the government, he said, worked together.

Ties with Galtieri

During the period of his governorship of the province, Galtieri, who last Friday was designated the future president, and Cristino Nicolaides, commander of the strategic First Army Corps, were two of the brigadier generals holding offices of responsibility with respect to the Corrientes zone.

Following the coup against Peron's widow on 24 March 1976, Romero was held under arrest for 2 years, a good part of which period he spent in a sanitarium, where he was twice visited by Galtieri despite the criticisms leveled at the latter because of these visits.

New Phase

Three months ago, Romero wrote to Galtieri, saying that someone must have the courage to pull Argentina up and out of the quagmire of vacillation in which it was floundering under the government of President Roberto Viola, who was ousted last week.

According to Romero, now that Viola and Former President Jorge Videla have been relegated to the sidelines of power, a new phase has begun for the Armed Forces.

Romero believes that under Galtieri's government Argentina will align itself with the West, particularly the United States, and says he would be very pleased to see a democratic system installed in Argentina like that of the United States.

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CSO: 3010/575

MDS HOPES TO INSTALL MASSERA AS NEXT ELECTED PRESIDENT

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 22 Dec 81 p 12

[Text] San Luis--Vice Adm (Ret) Rene Eduardo Fracassi, general representative and leading promoter of the MDS [Movement for Social Democracy] which is headed by Adm Emilio Massera, predicted yesterday in this city that "Massera will be the next elected president of Argentina."

And when he was asked at a press conference whether this would take place in 1984, he replied: "I cannot be certain of that; however, I believe that if it is not in 1984 it will be in 1985 at the very latest. And beyond that time the National Reorganization Process cannot go without turning power over to the one the public will have elected in free elections. For by that time, it will have completed 9 years in office at the head of the destinies of the nation, and what it has not done within that period of time it will no longer be able to do."

Removal of Viola

Asked whether the MDS is in agreement with the removal of Former President Viola and the designation of Lt General Galtieri to the nation's highest office, he replied: "Yes. That measure was adopted by the Military Junta and satisfies us for the reasons on which it was based. However, we are reserving judgement with respect to the future government until the chief executive has made known his objectives and the strategy he intends to follow to achieve the goals that will have been set."

Referring to the acceptance being accorded the MDS in the provinces, where he has already begun his promotional activities, Vice Admiral Fracassi said: "We are enrolling large numbers of independently-minded people and citizens who at one time or another have belonged to political groupings rooted in the social doctrine of the Church, such as Christian Democracy and Justicialism."

'Individual Integration'

He added that these enrollments, which in some places are taking place en masse, are not coming from the leaderships of these political groupings, but rather from their rank and file." He said that they are coming over "to us not as a result of pacts or agreements made behind their backs as has been unworthily averred, but by the individual integration of each person who feels called by our ideals."

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CSO: 3010/575

THIRD-QUARTER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY REPORT RELEASED

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Dec 81 p 6

[Text] The Ministry of **Economy**, Treasury and Finance released last night its report on economic activity during the first 9 months of this year, and an evaluation of the Argentine economy in 1981. In that study it estimated that the gross domestic product will have fallen by about 4.5 percent by the end of 1981, while the industrial product will have dropped some 13.5 percent and the agricultural value added will have risen about 2.6 percent.

Overall Supply

The overall supply of goods and services, according to the report, declined by about 5.7 percent during the first 9 months of 1981 compared to the same period of 1980. During the third quarter that decline amounted to 13.9 percent.

The gross domestic product dropped by 5.2 percent during those 9 months, the third quarter figure being a negative 11.4 percent, compared to the same periods of last year.

Imports of goods and services fell by 9.8 percent during the first months, and by 31.5 percent during the third quarter.

The report adds that economic activity was affected by the application of policies that in recent years discouraged national production of commercial goods on an international scale, and caused a new strangulation of the external sector.

Manufacturing Industry

In the manufacturing industry, the gross domestic product dropped by 14.4 percent between January and September, and in the third quarter it declined by 22.9 percent. However, it must be noted that the minimum level of activity was found between July and August, and since then industrial production has shown signs of recovery.

Consumption

During the 9-month period in question, overall consumption showed a slump of 3.9 percent, plummeting by 13.3 percent during the third quarter. This setback, adds the report, was due to the diminished buying power of the population, the surge in unemployment and underemployment, and high receivable interest rates that led to increased savings.

Gross Domestic Investment

During the early months, fixed gross investment was 16.9 percent less than the same period of 1980, and this downward trend quickened in the third quarter, with a 27.5 percent decline. The negative result stemmed from the slump in demand for construction (16.8 percent), as well as a drop in spending on production equipment (-45.1 percent).

Prices

Prices reflected a resurgence of inflation in 1981. Consumer prices soared by 101 percent during the first 11 months of this year, while wholesale prices shot up by 101.8 percent.

The acceleration of inflation was a consequence of the effect on prices of the exchange rate readjustments implemented between April and July, which improved the relative position of some sectors.

Wages

Real wages were eroded by 19.2 percent during the third quarter, while that figure was only 8.5 percent between January and September.

Jobs

The deepening of the recession this year was reflected in a drop in employment levels throughout the economy.

Thus, in October the unemployment rate in the capital and Greater Buenos Aires had reached 4.5 percent of the work force. In the rest of the country, that figure was 5.6 percent, as opposed to 2.2 and 3 percent, respectively, in October 1980.

Balance of Payments

The balance of payments by the end of the 9-month period, measured in terms of changes in international currency reserves, registered a deficit of \$3.038 billion. This deficit was concentrated in the January-March period, when the total fell by \$2.986 billion.

During the third quarter, a surplus of \$87.5 million resulted from current transactions, leaving a trade surplus of \$790 million which more than made up for the payments for services and unilateral transferences.

Public Finance

Between January and September the deficit of the General Treasury soared to 15.42809 trillion pesos. This figure represents a real increase of 74 percent over that of the same period last year. Net income represented 5.8 percent of the GDP, while expenditures reached 9.9 percent.

Money Supply and Credit

During the third quarter monetary resources expanded by 37.066 billion pesos, which is a growth of 30.3 percent. In real terms, that expansion was 2.2 percent.

The money supply grew by 31.7 percent during the third quarter, going from an average of 29.494 billion pesos in June to 38.845 billion in September.

During the first 10 months of the year, monetary resources expanded at a cumulative annual rate of 5.8 percent. While that figure was 2.7 percent during the January-March period, during the last 7 months it reached 7.2 percent.

The money supply expanded by 6.7 percent during the first 10 months, the figure for the first quarter being 2 percent and that of the final 7 months being 8.2 percent.

8926

CSO: 3010/583

ECONOMIC SOLUTION LINKED TO DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL OPENING

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 81 p 5

[Excerpts] Economist Raul Prebisch termed "without any basis in fact" the rumor that he will meet with the members of the Military Junta to analyze the current economic problems of the country, and stated that if a strategy had to be implemented to solve the critical situation in Argentina, he would not propose the plan he recommended in 1955 to the Liberating Revolution "because in the past 25 years a lot of water has gone under the bridge."

Prebisch indicated that the economic solution should be linked to a democratic political remedy, and claimed that the monetarism developed in international financial centers and applied in this country by former Minister Martinez de Hoz "is an intellectual aberration, an inconceivable thing that is leaving very serious scars on Latin American nations."

The Argentine economist, who is one of the leading figures in the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), explained that during his stay in Argentina he will meet with "economists, politicians, labor leaders and some retired military friends, but I do not plan to meet with the Military Junta that is governing Argentina."

Hypothesis

Prebisch, who was very cautious in responding to questions about the economic future of Argentina, replied to a query about an invitation from the Armed Forces by stating that "on such an important matter an answer should not be given on a hypothetical basis."

He was also evasive when asked about his possible participation in a Social Economic Council which would be made up of noteworthy personalities and would advise the current military government.

"That is also a hypothesis," he responded, and when asked about the possible invitation he said, "I haven't the slightest idea."

After reiterating that monetarism "is an intellectual aberration, an inconceivable thing that is leaving very serious scars on Latin American nations," he opined that to solve Argentina's and Latin America's economic problems "it is essential

that our own particular situations be explored so that certain conclusions can be drawn and actions taken accordingly."

1955 Program

He recognized that when he proposed the 1955 program "at that time I was influenced by something that affects many economists now when they try to see reality through exclusively economic prisms, without understanding what is happening with the distribution of income, inflation, or major economic problems."

He added that "my experience in 1955 taught me that one must delve deeply into the social structure of nations to find adequate answers to the economic problems that plague society."

Economics and Democracy

The veteran economist emphasized that "an economic solution cannot be divorced from a democratic remedy," and explained that "a return to institutional normality, if not accompanied by certain fundamental changes of an economic and social nature, will expose the country to new inflationary cycles and new political cycles."

Prebisch maintained that "the labor sector is a considerable and vital force, and therefore it must participate in the economic and political leadership of the country to solve problems."

"There can be no solution," he added, "to the economic and political problems of Argentina without active participation by the labor force, because it is an integral part of the potential leadership of the country."

He declined to explain how the labor movement will be rebuilt after 6 years of absence from national life, claiming, "I am not qualified to give an answer, but I can assure you that the labor force has a major economic and political impact."

Theories

The ECLA economist asserted that "I lost my respect for theories developed in the major centers, because since I began my career in 1930, and still today, we economists study ways to deal with the crises that are produced externally."

Prebisch stated, "Today the United States has unleashed a wave of serious inflation, and now it is unleashing a great recession with the monetarist policy of credit restriction."

"Throughout my life," he went on, "I have struggled to get these centers to change their policy regarding developing countries, but unfortunately nothing significant has been achieved."

After elaborating on the errors of the great centers of economic power, he asked, "How can I believe that monetarism or the free play of supply and demand is the gospel truth?"

Finally, he indicated, "Unfortunately, economists persist in believing that certain economic theories can be applied to a problem that is not just economic; it is much more complex than that."

8926

CSO: 3010/583

SIX ORGANIZATIONS FORM FRONT TO STUDY RASTAFARIAN PROBLEMS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] The National United Front of Barbados (NUF) was formed last Friday. It is a provisional solidarity committee with emphasis on the Rastafarian problem at Shepherd's Street (Rockers' Alley), Broad Street.

The six organisations which came together are The People's Progressive Movement (PPM); The Barbados Youth Council (BYC); The National United Movement of Barbados (NUMB); The People's Pressure Movement (PPM); The Movement for National Liberation (MONALI) and the Workers of Rockers Alley.

The committee in replying to certain charges, said: "We are not backing any Rastas in any crisis whatsoever or encouraging them to be involved in any criminal activity."

The NUF said at a Press conference yesterday at the BYC's offices, Bay Street, St. Michael, that it wanted to set up a Commission of Enquiry "to look into the social and economic circumstances under which Rastas worked at Shepherd Street."

The committee said that it wanted such an enquiry so that it could make recommendations to ensure that wherever the workers of Rockers' Alley moved, it would be a more progressive form of enterprise.

In addition, the committee is calling for compensation for the loss of property of the workers of Rockers Alley, which is reported to be about Bds \$50 000.

The committee is calling for greater understanding for the Rasta phenomenon, adding that it would sponsor educational programmes to inform the public about the historical and social structure of Rastafarianism.

The committee said that it would continue to work for greater organisation among the Rastas and craftsmen in general.

"The media bosses could do a lot more in giving the public the right to such information," the committee said.

Ras Fela, representative of the Workers Of Rockers' Alley, said that the craftsmen were concerned about where they would work tomorrow. (The Police

removed stalls and huts last Friday from Rockers' Alley where the Rastas carried on a trade selling mainly handicraft and leatherwork).

"We have our families to work for and we have commitments too. What are we going to do now?" he asked.

He said that all of the work was in the police station locked up and they could not get it.

However, a check with Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Orville Durant, revealed that the workers could have retrieved their property from Central Police Station.

Some of the workers said they went to the police station and were told to return tomorrow, but Mr. Durant said that he had given instructions to senior police officers that when the workers turned up for their property yesterday they should be given instead of having to return tomorrow.

Ras Fela said that the 15 workers in Rockers' Alley were not the ones responsible for starting the incident last Wednesday which led to a confrontation between the Rastas and the Police.

He further said that the workers wanted a place from which to sell tomorrow.

"We are suffering right now, because criminal activity happened among us, but we are not the criminals," he added.

The committee also asked why was the high-handedness used on the "brethren" (rastas) when Police should have informed the Rastas that they had to remove their things by a particular time.

The committee said that it denounced the growing racist anti-black sentiments expressed by spokesmen for the minority white settlers of Barbados.

The committee said that it also condemned the growing "military build-up" in Barbados and allegations by a number of Barbadian citizens of police harassment and brutality.

In addition, it said that it wanted to know what was Government's policy towards the working class people in giving them assistance to establish self-employed projects.

CSO: 3025/109

FOREIGN MINISTER TULL PLEDGES SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Dec 81 p 1

[Text]

BARBADOS has pledged to lend its assistance to the eradication of all kinds of discrimination, injustice and oppression from the world.

In a message to mark the observance of Human Rights Day, yesterday, Minister of External Affairs Mr. Louis Tull said this country will continue to fight for those principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

He said this important body of principles guarantees the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every individual.

"Today, countries all over the world join together to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of that historic occasion," Mr. Tull said.

The Minister added that since 1948, the international community has addressed its attention to the matter further. In 1976, he noted, another important milestone was reached with the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

These covenants were ratified by many nations including Barbados.

Mr. Tull said that embodied within the first of these covenants are the rights of every person to work, fair wages, social security, adequate standards of living, health and education.

"The second covenant acknowledges the inalienable rights of life, liberty, security and privacy of persons; it prohibits all kinds of servitude and seeks to ensure the right of a fair trial, and offers protection against arbitrary arrest or detention," Mr. Tull said.

He added that Barbadians have most of these rights safeguarded by the constitution and the country could be justly proud of its Human Rights record.

"We, nevertheless, realise that the struggle will not be over until all countries recognise and respect the dignity and worth of the human person," Mr. Tull said.

CSO: 3025/109

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION POLICIES SAID TO HURT BLACKS, OTHERS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Dec 81 p 4

[Article by Ridley Greene]

[Text] If President Ronald Reagan had never been an actor, and if he had never been made to live the lines of fantasy associated with the Hollywood of yesterday, he just might not today be suffering from the dilemma of a wild and extravagant imagination. And he would have known by now that his notion about the removal of government and its replacement by private enterprise is of little good to the Caribbean nations he is lumbering along to woo, and of none whatsoever to the American Blacks he wishes to release from "bondage".

In the latter case, the differences in outlook between the Reagan administration and black America is summed up by Mr. Reagan's very remarks to the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) earlier this year:

That the American government was no longer "the strong draft horse of minority progress".

TOO MUCH

Mr. Reagan made it clear that the government had been trying to do too much for too many, and as a result had made a botch of nearly everything for nearly everybody. His emphasis of criticism had been on aid programmes, minority appointments, the Voting Rights Act....

The president's perception was, of course, and continues to be, one of heartlessness, even racism,

for it is the Blacks whom Mr. Reagan's rough and shoddy rule affects most.

American Blacks, naturally, tend to see themselves as a despised minority whose only reliable source of help has been the federal government; and while they will agree that a resurgent economy offers the best chance for black development, they believe that this is possible only if government is there to insist that private enterprise does black America justice.

The American government has been the "draft horse" that pulled the disadvantaged Blacks out of slavery; that got them into the armed forces; that opened up for them the voting booths; that made available to them the lunch counters; that championed for them fair employment; that guaranteed for them some access to artisan

trades, and to banking facilities; that afforded them some business opportunity; and that offered them fair housing.

When we review the period from the 1960s until now, we must admit that none of these things was done perfectly, but they were highly appreciated by the Blacks of America, for these Blacks doubt very much that they would have been done at all without that governmental "draft horse"....

That draft horse that the Reagan administration would now put back in the stable in favour of the fresh ready-to-rear "powerful workhorse" called free enterprise.

No one can dispute that a flourishing economy holds very high hopes for curing the ills of any society, black or white outside of South Africa; but free enterprise benefits have never been known to be automatic.

The economy of the southern states of America was said to be quite strong when the cotton crop reigned, but few of the benefits went to the cotton-picking Blacks. Whatever has been made markedly better for Blacks now, the American government helped to make it so.

It must be said, nevertheless, that Mr. Reagan is right when he contends that the United States

government has hurt, as well as helped, the chances of black Americans. American government involvement has never been perfect, given the bungling bureaucracy, and the forces of resistance within. And he is right when he calls welfare a "new kind of bondage"; when he says that a productive job is preferable to a government handout.

Being able to swim fully is a great deal better, and much more desirable, than being capable of only holding one's own in the water with an inflated life-belt.

But black America fears that Mr. Reagan's policies, at least his well learned lines, will amount to the escape of air from the inflatable belt.

FAITH

The fact is that Mr. Reagan has not really outlined any new programmes for the old ones he says have failed. Instead he has pinned his faith in private enterprise: a faith that black America has little reason to share.

Though not with the same reservation, the black Caribbean

nations are cautious of Mr. Reagan's private enterprise policy.

As though he spoke for all Caribbean leaders, Prime Minister Tom Adams told participants at the Conference of Caribbean Trade, Investment and Development in Miami last week, that he could not accept the notion that the development of the Caribbean could be achieved by private enterprise initiative alone.

Mr. Adams felt that official development aid, any government to government programme, as in American government aid to any Caribbean country, was necessary for the progress of the developing country.

Mr. Adams' view that private enterprise input from the United States in the areas of pollution control, water and sewerage services, road building, and so on would not be so forthcoming cannot be gainsaid.

One can only hope that Mr. Reagan and his advisers had ample time to study Mr. Adams' remarks, in order to have a clearer picture of the developing

Caribbean and the requirements that are necessary for its progress.

Mr. Reagan must understand that private American interest is unlikely to be keen in investing in an area where yield or return on investment is snail slow. It is fair to say then that if, after all this, Mr. Reagan pursues this obtuse manner of showing the new American concern through an undying faith in American free enterprise, then his imagination is indeed wilder and more extravagant than one would have first thought.

We in the Caribbean are no more ready to buy the Reaganomics rule of free American enterprise investment for our national development, than black America is willing to accept the Reagan notion that government is the problem and that the solution to that problem is for government to remove itself.

Mr. Reagan's attitude toward our development in the Caribbean is an off-spin of the view he holds of his very own black subjects in America: one indeed of heartlessness... underlined perhaps by a disdain for minorities.

EDITORIAL HAILS DLP PUBLIC MEETINGS AS 'HEALTHY SIGN'

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Dec 81 p 4

[Text] The opposition Democratic Labour Party has taken to the highways and byways of Barbados in a new series of public meetings to discuss aspects of the serious economic crisis facing Barbados.

It is a very healthy sign that the party has been able to mount this series which is getting the serious attention of a wide cross-section of the country, while Parliament discusses their suggestion for a national task force to guide the country over the rough waters.

Less than six months after they lost the general election, the party is demonstrating its great concern for the future of the country by drawing to the notice of the electorate, aspects of the country's financial administration that open themselves to a measure of criticism.

Speakers have been attacking the revenue-earning measures introduced since the June election--measures like the transport levy and increased national insurance contributions as well as the revised land valuations and the increased taxes which followed.

They are drawing attention to the alleged presence of the International Monetary Fund on our doorsteps and what this will mean if it takes up its position at Government headquarters.

Opposition Leader Errol Barrow has gone so far as to say that by March next year there will be a devaluation of the Barbadian dollar--a statement which none of us can take lightly, coming when it does and from a former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Barbadians have been asked this year to absorb increases in the cost of living--particularly through increased gasoline prices, consumption taxes on a wide range of goods and bus fare increases. The mood of the country is naturally receptive to the gospel according to the DLP.

Government has given them much on which to speak at their meetings and they have responded as a good opposition party should.

CSO: 3025/109

FIRST COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO BARBADOS ASSUMES DUTIES

Dr Ayerbe's Background

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Dec 81 p 2

[Text] Dr. Carlos Ayerbe presents his credentials as Colombia's Ambassador to Barbados to Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Deighton Ward today at 11 a.m.

Dr. Ayerbe will be the first Colombian Ambassador to be accredited to Barbados since formal diplomatic relations were established between the two countries on February 1, 1972.

The Ambassador will be resident in Barbados.

During his round of official visits Ambassador Ayerbe will pay courtesy calls on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Louis Tull, the Head of the Foreign Service, Mr. H.P. Brazane Babb and the Chief of Protocol, Mr. Wendell H. Kellman.

The Ambassador will call on the Prime Minister Mr.

J.M.G.M. Adams at a later date. He will also meet with the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mr. J. Stanley Arthur.

Dr Ayerbe is no stranger to Barbados having lived here for three years during which time he was Project Engineer (Housing) with the Caribbean Development Bank.

The 45-year-old Ambassador is an architectural engineer by profession. He is married and has five children.

Meeting with Ward

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 9 Dec 81 p 32

[Text] COLOMBIA's Ambassador to Barbados, Carlos Ayerbe, yesterday presented Governor-General, Sir Deighton Ward with his Letters of Credentials, at Government House.

The occasion marked the first time that a Colombian envoy was accredited to Barbados.

During the presentation the ambassador said, Colombia does not seek a position of leadership in the Caribbean, and its main reason for being here was the recognition of our common destiny in the Caribbean.

He also noted that his country was fully aware of the achievements of Barbadians and expressed his admiration as far as

democracy in the Caribbean region was concerned, even though it was experiencing severe political disturbances.

Ayerbe added:

"I will endeavour to bring our nations closer and will strive to create the links to assure a continuing participation that will result, I hope, in mutual benefits."

In his reply, the Governor-General expressed his pleasure in being able to welcome Ayerbe.

He said, "Our two countries are part of the Caribbean region, and our governments share common goals, in that they both strive to achieve better standards of living for our people."

He said it was his government's hope to extend and strengthen the ties that already exist between Barbados and Colombia and that his government had already sought measures to facilitate contacts between the two countries, especially in the economic, trade and cultural fields.

Sir Deighton also stressed upon the membership in regional organisations, these being the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

He said, "It is in forums such as these that our two governments can pool our resources and harness our talents to our mutual benefits and development."

MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION HEAD PRESENTS 1982 ACTION PLAN

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Dec 81 p 1

[Text]

A nine-point plan of action for the next 12 months was yesterday outlined at a Press conference at the Board Room of the Export Promotion Corporation (EPC) by Mr. Henry Vieira the newly-elected president of the Barbados Manufacturers' Association (BMA).

The priorities listed by Mr. Vieira during the coming years are to:

- Assist in reducing the balance of payments deficit by both import substitution and increasing exports.

- Strengthen the relationships between the BMA and other private sector, governmental and statutory bodies throughout the Caribbean.

- Activate a dynamic and effective exporters group within the BMA.

- Increase the ranks of membership to encompass, not only a greater majority of manufacturing enterprises, but eventually also exporters who themselves may not be manufacturers.

- Obtain a stronger voice in industrial developmental matters by lobbying for representation on a number of decision-making bodies, like the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation, the Barbados Development Bank, the Barbados National Bank, to name only a few.

- Review the possibilities of rejoining the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC).

- Involve a greater number of members in the BMA's activities.

- Identify closer with the day-to-day problem facing manufacturers.

- And achieving a totally unhindered CARICOM market for Barbadian products.

In order to set a meaningful programme for the coming year, Mr. Vieira intends to take the following actions:

- Visit a wide cross-section of both the private and public sector organisations in order to examine their programmes and co-ordinate the BMA's own activities so that a unified and meaningful result may be achieved for the whole of Barbados.

- Meet with sectorial groups within the BMA so as to assess the needs of the various groups and to reorganise them into more functional bodies.

The newly-elected BMA president said that he would call an urgent council meeting to seek ratification of the above outlined plan and to enlist the help of his colleagues in the final implementation.

Mr. Vieira added: "I would like to draw attention to the fact that this Association has steered a path over the years which has been complementary to the national developmental progress of successive Government.

"As such, this Association deserves the fullest national support from consumers, banks, retailers, workers and Government in its widest sense," the new BMA president declared.

BARBADOS AMONG AREA NATIONS BENEFITING FROM IDB ASSISTANCE

Economic Research Project

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Dec 81 p 3

[Text] **BARBADOS** will be one of a number of Caribbean countries to benefit from a U.S. \$2.7 million grant from the Inter-American Development Bank.

The money will go to the Joint States Programme for Economic Integration in Latin America (ECIEL) to carry out economic research on problems which affect low-income sectors in Latin America.

The technical co-operation, extended from the bank's fund for special operations, will be used by ECIEL to carry out research on productivity and learning in the rural area, the impact of economic policies on employment and income distribution, and the impact of social public expenditure and its distributive effects.

Execution of each of the research programmes will be carried out over three years.

ECIEL is an independent, non-profit institution founded in 1963 to undertake research on economic development and integration in Latin America. Headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, it has thus far received seven technical co-operations from the bank for a total of almost U.S. \$2.5 million. ECIEL comprises about 60 research organisations from the western hemisphere and Europe.

The three research programmes will allow governments to define policies and orient bank lending to the least developed sectors in the region. The study on productivity and learning in the rural area will determine the interaction of different sources of learning — among themselves and, as a group, with productivity.

The study on economic policies, employment and income distribution will permit policy options aimed at closing the employment gap and minimising the social costs resulting from actions taken to stabilise the economy.

The study on social public expenditures will compare the methods of distribution, operation and coverage of such public services as social security, public health, education, housing, potable water and sewage services.

The total cost of the programme is estimated at U.S.\$4.4 million, of which the bank's technical co-operation will cover 60 per cent, participating organisations 21 per cent and ECIEL the remaining 19 per cent.

Development Financing

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Developmental projects currently underway in Barbados which are being financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), have been allocated more than US\$60 million (BDS\$120) newly-appointed IDB representative in Barbados, David Coore has said.

According to Mr. Coore, this represents a "fairly respectable" amount from the hemispheric institution,

taking into consideration the physical size of the island.

However, the IDB official thinks that Barbados can absorb much more developmental assistance from his organisation.

The former Jamaica Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister listed among the projects the construction of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, the Scotland District Conservation Project,

and the construction of two major highways.

Mr. Coore said for 1982, the bank was considering assistance to the development of the fishing industry on the island, a further loan to a student's revolving fund scheme, assistance to an urban development project around the Bridgetown Harbour and a wind energy project.

Among other areas in which the Washington-based IDB

will give assistance to Barbados is the construction of a sewerage system for the south of the island, and an access road linking all the industrial estates — all planned for 1983.

Those are the main things we will be looking at over the next two years, but obviously many other projects might be generated over the same period," Mr. Coore said. "In addition, we have a number of technical co-operation projects which are intended to strengthen the various institutions involved in the execution of projects, like the Barbados Development Bank."

Other areas which also may come in for some assistance from the bank include beach conservation, tourism and industrial development, he said.

"We appreciate that the development strategy of Barbados places specific emphasis for the immediate future on tourism development and industrial development. In most countries, we tend to de-emphasise these two areas. In a country like Barbados, we would be more inclined to give priority to these sectors because of the particular stage of development which Barbados has reached", the IDB representative said.

Speaking on the bank's main priority areas in national development, in its member countries Mr. Coore listed in order of importance — agriculture, rural develop-

ment, economic and social infrastructure, energy, and education.

He pointed out the bank attached great importance to the development of alternative energy sources in Latin America and the Caribbean as this was a *sine qua non* (indispensable condition) to the future development of the area.

The IDB representative said: "We are very conscious of the importance which the development of indigenous supplies of energy holds for the future of the Latin American region. In many countries, we have heavy investments in hydro-electric schemes... but in addition, we are anxious to explore with member countries the development of non-conventional sources of energy."

"We have a number of projects in many countries designed to explore the feasibility of solar energy, biomass, wind energy and any other kind of non-conventional energy source that the country may wish to look at."

Mr. Coore said one of the main problems confronting his organisation was assuring that the bank had enough resources to meet the demands of its member countries. He also cited determining the viability of projects and making sure that they were completed within the allotted time as other problems.

Speaking of the Less Developed Countries of the Caribbean, the IDB official said his bank was not in a position to offer direct assistance to them because they were not members.

However, he added that the bank provided loans to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for on-lending purposes and it was from this source that these island states received most of the funding for their developmental assistance.

"The bank is conscious of the need to find separate help for the smaller territories of the Eastern Caribbean and it is for that reason that we hope to increase the level of our co-operation and relationship which we have with the Caribbean Development Bank," Mr. Coore said.

He said though these territories were entitled to become members of the IDB, they would have to make "substantial contributions" as members. Because of serious financial difficulties facing these islands, that was impossible.

Questioned as to whether it would be better if these states joined the bank under the umbrella of an organisation such as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Mr. Coore said the bank's charter did not permit such. However, he hinted that there might be a possibility where such an arrangement could be made through a treaty.

BRIEFS

YUGOSLAVIAN ENVOY--Dr. Janko Lazarevski, Ambassador of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia present his credentials as Ambassador to Barbados, to Governor General Sir Deighton Ward at 11 a.m. today. [as published] During his one-week official visit to Barbados, Dr. Lazarevski will pay courtesy calls on a number of Government ministers including Mr. Bernard St. John, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry; Mr. Louis R. Tull, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Richard Cheltenham, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs. The Ambassador will also call on the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Brazane Babb and the Chief of Protocol Mr. Wendell Kellman. He is also scheduled to call on Mr. Stanley Arthur, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 9 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 3025/109

BRIEFS

AID FROM KOREA--Ten pick-up trucks from the South Korean government were officially handed over to the Government this week. A high Korean official presented the keys to Acting Prime Minister Brian Alleyne. Mechanical tillers and a van have been promised by the Koreans for the Agricultural Department. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 21 Nov 81 p 2]

HOUSING PROGRAM--An islandwide Housing Scheme is scheduled to start here soon. Mr. Brian Alleyne Minister for Housing said that a sum of \$7 million E.C. is being made available to the Housing Development Corporation for the undertaking of this project. A total of 830 houses are expected to be built under the scheme, and according to the Minister, every community in Dominica is entitled to benefit under that scheme. The new scheme is being financed by part of the \$13 million E.C. loan from the Trinidad Government. It is estimated that about 260 houses will be built per annum under the scheme. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 21 Nov 81 p 12]

CIVIL, POLICE APPOINTMENTS--A new Public Service Commission has been appointed. The new Chairman is Mr. Eric Munro MBE, a former Chief Engineer of the Central Water Authority. The other members are Garnet Didier, Deputy Chairman; Brother Egbert Germain, Principal of the St. Mary's Academy; Mr. Osmond Georges and Mrs. Aileen Shillingford both former Head Teachers; Miss Cynthia Lewis and Mr. Alic Boyd, former Civil Servants. Former Deputy Chief of Police, Hildreth Doctrove has been appointed Chairman of the Police Service Commission. Other persons appointed to serve are Mr. D. R. Burton, Mr. Young P. Magloire, Mr. Garner T. Charles, Mr. El Elroy Pioche, Mr. Joseph L. Vanterpool, and Mrs. Delia R. Winston. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 21 Nov 81 p 14]

CSO: 3025/117

REPORT HAILS SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE AS 'MAJOR SUCCESS'

St Georges THE NEW JEWEL in English 27 Nov 81 p 1

[Text]

DELEGATIONS came from 40 countries, spread over every continent on earth to Grenada this week to express solidarity with the Revolution here and see for themselves how the Party, Government and people are moving with people's power to institute social and economic progress.

A gathering of this size is historic in itself. Coming at this moment, when the US is once again trying to push the world towards nuclear holocaust directly attacking nations like Grenada in vain attempts to reverse the tide of revolution in the region and the world.

In the course of the three day meeting, all of the 108 delegates present (among whom were representatives of the Central Committees of parties in power, the leadership of national liberation movements, ambassadors and members of socialist and progressive organisations) declared their firm support for the Grenada Revolution and the people's democracy unfolding here.

PM Maurice Bishop, who both opened and closed the Conference called attention to the particular reasons why solidarity with Grenada, is important now. He said, "Grenada has embarked on the boldest attempt in the English-speaking Caribbean to wipe out the under development which has been our inherited We are creating a new social and

economic development model which our neighbours in the region are watching very carefully." Moreover he said, "we are demanding to build this new society in peace, free from daily threats, outside intervention, and the "Macco lies that imperialism is desperately resorting to."

The profound effect of these remarks, continued with the information and contact delegates got in speaking with the leadership and working people of Grenada. The delegate from Mongolia who having flown 36 hours to attend the Conference, said "If I had to fly 96 hours to be here, I would have done so."

In fact, throughout the conference, the Grenada Revolution was hailed as a standard-bearer of proletarian internationalism, anti imperialism, and true democracy.

Solidarity statements which met with particularly enthusiastic response were those of the USSR, Cuba Nicaragua, SWAPO, the PLO, Libya, Vietnam, Ethiopia and the joint statement by the delegation of Friendship Societies from the US.

Specific calls were made for Barbados to normalise relations with Grenada and to remove the US planes and warships now based in that country, to maintain the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace

CSO: 3025/113

PRG OFFICIAL BLASTS MAHARAJ, DENIES 'TORTURE' CHARGE

St Georges THE NEW JEWEL in English 12 Dec 81 p 2

[Text]

An official of the People's Revolutionary Government has come out in defense of the Grenada Revolution following a news item aired on Radio Antilles last Tuesday, December 8

According to the Radio Antilles report, Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj and his so called Trinidad and Tobago Human Rights Bureau have claimed that they have evidence to show that two detainees, Keith and Lyle St. Bernard are in jail with broken fingers and toes and scars where their skin was peeled off with pliers.

The PRG official said that Maharaj's dishonesty speaks of a letter he sent to Prime Minister Bishop- a letter which was never recieved

Without any sense decency or respect for his own conscience, Maharaj accuses the PRG of torture without being able to substantiate a single word of the garbage he utters.

The PRG official further went on to state that two medical reports signed by Dr Tam Sekha on the 3rd. December this year clearly indicates that both Lyle and Keith St. Bernard are in good physical condition and mental health, with no sign of internal or external injuries. According to the medical reports, copies of which were personally handed over to the GUARDIAN

and EXPRESS newspapers of Trinidad and Tobago none of the two detainees have either reported sick or that they were tortured inside the prison since their detention.

Both men have appeared in court on several occasions since September 29, this year and last appeared on December 1st. Nor have they complained to the court of physical disability or torture.

Maharaj has obviously learned the art of fabrication and lying quite well to the extent that he will sell his own soul to answer to the dictates of imperialism, the PRG official said. Why is Maharaj and the other imperialist lackeys in the region so desperate, the official asked.

Is it because of the fact that in November this year alone there were over 72 community and workers meetings throughout the country in which the people actively participated in the building of our new grass-roots democracy?

Or is it because of our free school books and uniform programme or the free health care or free education or better housing for the people he said.

A country which is repressive, where there is no existence of Human rights could not have attracted 107 delegates in 85 delegations from 40 countries throughout the world at the first International Solidarity Conference which was held in Grenada only two weeks ago the PRG official pointed out.

The official described Maharaj as simply an opportunist, a publicity seeker who intends to attack the Grenada Revolution through various media rags throughout the region for his own personal promotion.

In spite of Maharaj's attacks, the official concluded, the Grenada Revolution continues to be strong and continues to move forward, bringing more and more benefits to the people.

U.S. IN ECONOMIC CRISIS, TRIES TO BLAME LEFTIST NATIONS

St Georges THE NEW JEWEL in English 27 Nov 81 p 4

[Text]

The capitalist and imperialist world is going through one of the most serious crisis of all time. In fact, the present crisis facing the world capitalist system is the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

The United States, as the number-one capitalist and imperialist country in the world, leads the way. This crisis is getting worse since Madman Reagan took office in January this year, and no capitalist economist or the magicians can find a solution to the present crisis facing capitalism.

This new crisis in capitalism is one in which there is both inflation and recession: prices are rising Madly, and at the same time, there is a drop in production. Factories are being closed down, workers are out of work and so goods for sale do not get bought.

But how does the Reagan administration propose to deal with this crisis? They are reducing the budget, making cuts in social services, and reducing cash flow, lowering taxes for the rich, and encouraging investment. They are also carrying out a mad arms race, which is at the expense of poor people in America.

American newspapers themselves point out that the result of the US arms build-up is basically at the expense of the poor people in the United States.

More than 400,000 poor families with children will no longer get benefits they used to receive from the federal government; 875,000 families will lose food stamps that enabled them to buy food; 1.4 million families will have their amount of food stamps reduced; 22.5 million poor people will no longer get the little medical services they used to get from the government of America;

17.7 million school-children will no longer get school lunches, while 270,000 people who used to serve lunches in schools will lose their jobs because Reagan has stopped the school-lunch programme.

(This is just the nose of the Monster. Reagan is facing more and more problems with the US economy. Even his budget director has said that Reagan's crazy economic policies will not and cannot work.

But Reagan is trying to make the people of America believe that it is other countries in the world who are creating these problems for America. On the one hand, he is blaming the Soviet Union, and on the other hand, he is blaming Cuba, Nicaragua, the revolutionary forces in El Salvador, Libyan and even little Grenada. He is using "communism", "Socialism", and the National Liberation Movements as his scapegoat.

His scheme to put 572 nuclear missiles in Europe aimed at the Soviet Union, is bent on forcing his NATO friends in Europe to accept these missiles on their soil, even though millions of people in the West European countries are taking to the streets every week in the past few months to protest against this missile deployment.

We in Grenada must view the present world situation as being a very serious one, where not only peace, but even the lives of the people of the world are in serious danger.

We might believe that there is nothing that we in small Grenada can do to prevent WW 3. That may be true. We alone cannot do anything. But with the other countries and peoples who are concerned about the future of the world we can do something together.

We can continue to call and strive for peace, and to expose the real danger and who are causing these dangers to the world's people. We can and must continue to educate our people so that they will not fall for the lies they are hearing and reading in the imperialist press.

And at the same time, we must continue to train and prepare our people to produce more and to defend our country against any eventual imperialist invasion of our country.

We do not want war. We want peace. But at the same time, since the imperialists are preparing for war and aggression, and since they are already carrying out economic and political war against

our country, we must not bury our heads in the sand and pretend that nothing is going to happen to us.

We must get ready to face imperialist aggression in every form, in any and every corner of our country.

We must show imperialism that we are confident that a firm, united, conscious and determined people CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED.

CSO: 3025/113

HAIG PERFORMANCE AT OAS MEETING, U.S. POLICY CRITICIZED

St Georges THE NEW JEWEL in English 12 Dec 81 p 8

[Text]

AFTER monopolising the imperialist dominated media for days with his cold war propaganda, General Haig finally arrived at the OAS General Assembly meeting in St. Lucia to threaten violence against Nicaragua and Cuba. However, he got a firm disappointment, if not a rebuff. Not a single delegation supported his invasion designs. They all spoke out against such aggressiveness and war. Haig realised that the people of the region are interested in peace. Therefore, he was completely out of step.

Clearly the region has come a long way from the days of inquisitions, witch hunts and burning people at the stake for "heresay". In one sense, it was almost incredible to hear the United States speak of "interference" in the internal affairs of regional states!

The delegates were interested in other questions: the protectionist US tariff barriers; the disruption of the economies of several countries through US dumping of strategic mineral stocks on the world market (silver etc.) deeper economic cooperative; the payment by the United States of its heavy dues to the OAS system (nineteen million US dollars) and other practical matters. However, Haig's plan for an "Institute for Democracy" is an attractive idea. What could be more useful to students of democracy in the region than the following courses

Mobilising the electorate Professors
George Wallace Lestor Maddox and Bull
O'Connor

Honesty in Government professor
Nixon

The decision making process Gulf of
Tonkin Resolutions (a case study)

The democracy of the rich corporations

Vs the democracy of the masses

President with 27% of the registered
votes

CSO: 3025/113

ACCORD SIGNED WITH U.S.-GRENADA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 12 Dec 81 p 12

[Text]

THE first formal step in solidifying ties between the peoples of Grenada and the US was taken on Thursday at York House when Carlotta Scott, representing the US-Grenada Friendship Societies, and Swinton Lambert, representing the Grenada Committee for Friendship with the Peoples, signed an agreement outlining a joint programme of co-operation for 1982.

The statement emphasises people-to-people cultural exchanges, improving friendship, understanding, and involvement, and bettering US/Grenada relations.

Projected activities that will be organised under the umbrella of this agreement include seminars of the Caribbean as a zone of peace, the production and distribution of materials acquainting both Grenadians and North Americans with the

struggles and realities shared in common, and the hosting of delegations of experts on subjects of mutual benefit.

Sis Scott stated:

"This agreement represents a significant and historic development, which should provide the framework for generating interest and widening the involvement of progressive people in the US to support Grenada and the Revo."

Ero Lambert added that "this is only the beginning." He stressed how, in this period especially, "it is important for Grenadians and Americans to know they have common aims and objectives, and struggle against a common enemy, imperialism".

"We look forward to similar developments in Europe and other places around the world where friendship societies exist", he concluded.

BRIEFS

BOMBING INQUIRY--Preliminary enquiry into the June 19 bombing began last Monday at the St. George's Magistrates Court. Seven persons, Kenneth Budhlall, Russel Budhlall, Roland Budhlall, Layne Phillip, Eddie Richardson, Fitrylyn Joseph and Grace Augustine were charged on July 28, this year, under the 1980 Terrorism Prevention Law, in connection with the bombing. They are being represented by lawyers Michael Andrews and Ben Jones, appearing for Phillip. At the sitting, 10 statements were tendered before the court, by the prosecution. These included statements from medical personnel, eyewitnesses and relatives of the deceased. The procedure tendering statements rather than calling witnesses, was instituted under the 1978 Criminal Procedure Preliminary Enquiry Act and amended under the 1980 Terrorism Prevention Law. Victims of the June 19 bombing were Bernadette Bailey, Laurice Humphrey and Laureen Charles. The enquiry was adjourned until January 4, 1982. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 12 Dec 81 p 2]

ATTEMPTED COUP HEARING--Seven men appeared before the St. George's Magistrate Court yesterday, for the second time this year, on charges of conspiracy to use violence against members of the People's Revolutionary Army, with a view to overthrowing the People's Revolutionary Government on April 26, 1980. The men, Keith and Lyle St. Bernard, Kenneth and Kennedy Budhlall, Raphael Roberts, Joseph Jacob, and Godwin Charles are charged under the Terrorism Prevention Law of 1980. The hearing was adjourned however until next Friday, after Ben Jones, defence council for the St. Bernards and Godwin Charles failed to turn up for the session. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 12 Dec 81 p 3]

CSO: 3025/113

VICE PRESIDENT SEES 'SABOTAGE' AS CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Nov 81 p 16

[Text] Vice President for Public Welfare, Hamilton Green, has said that there had been cause for national concern about reported and suspected acts of sabotage committed within some of the vital sectors of the economy.

The Vice President was speaking at the opening of the headquarters of the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Association (GBSA) at Linden, on Friday.

He said that while not seeking to apportion blame to workers employed in the enterprises affected, it was his conviction that greater vigilance on the part of loyal and dedicated workers could have gone a far way towards averting some of these acts. Such acts were clearly intended to frustrate Government's effort to effectively carry out its development programme for the benefit of the people.

"Here at Linden," Cde. Green said, "there appears to be a serious problem of low production and productivity for which the workers must accept some of the blame. "The serious efforts being made by the industry to improve the lot of the workers through a variety of social and economic measures do not appear to have been met with a corresponding appreciation and response by the workers," Cde. Green added.

He said that this was a sad feature and it was his expectation that the GBSA as a responsible organisation representing the supervisors of the industry, would play its part in providing the necessary leadership, which hopefully would bring about a desirable change of attitude within the entire work force and the community as a whole.

Cde Green observed that the trade union movement worldwide was passing through a period of crisis.

"One only has to look at the events plaguing the movement in the richest of the countries, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Poland," the Vice President declared, "to see the massive struggles which the trade union movement has got to wage to maintain and to improve the economic and social lot of the workers."

Here in Guyana, he pointed out, the TUC, in active cooperation with the Government, had been able to weather the storm to the extent that the agreed wage increases for public sector workers were being paid and as far as possible, reasonable levels of employment were being maintained.

CSO: 3025/110

JAGAN INTERVIEWED, CASTIGATES BURNHAM REGIME, PNC

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 11 Dec 81 p 10

[Article by Zan Lewis]

[Text] Representatives of opposition parties from two Caricom countries were in St. Vincent and the Grenadines last week.

Dr. Cheddi Jagan of Guyana needs no introduction. THE VINCENTIAN was represented at a press conference given by him and what transpired is reported on this page.

Two members of the Shadow Cabinet of the Trinidad and Tobago Party the National Joint Action Committee called on the Editor of THE VINCENTIAN. They were on a Caribbean tour to explain certain facts regarding the recent Trinidad and Tobago Elections and outline their Party's plan of action.

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, leader and General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) of Guyana is calling for 'Solidarity among Caribbean people'. The Opposition Leader in the Guyanese parliament was speaking, in a press conference at the United People's Movement (U.P.M.) office on Monday 30th November.

The PPP leader, who is currently on a Caribbean tour, is informing the people of the Caribbean of the situation that exists in Guyana, and also focussing on some aspects of US foreign policy which he considers to be detrimental to the people of the Caribbean.

In Guyana, he said, "there is a grave social and economic crisis which is manifested in a production stagnation and financial bankruptcy in the country. ...also there are huge balance of payments and budgetary deficits year after year."

"The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the power behind the Burnham throne, dictating domestic and foreign policies," said Dr. Jagan. This dictation, he continued, is taking the form of putting the burden of the crisis on the backs of the people, which he said is done in several ways: (1) Very steep taxation (2) Cuts in social services (3) The removal of subsidies on essential commodities (4) Wage freeze and wage restraints. In 1979, Jagan said, the people of Guyana were subjected to wage and increment freezes and since then the government has adopted the wage restraint policy the wage increases do not conform

with the rise in the cost of living. (5) There was the introduction of high interest rates. This he said is affecting the unemployment situation in Guyana. And finally this year there was the devaluation of the dollar by about 17 per cent. A combination of all these factors, the PPP leader observed created a decline in living standards. Jagan claimed that there had been an 80 per cent rate of inflation in the last three years.

"The working people of Guyana are certainly in a desperate situation...The working people have to beg, borrow and steal in order to maintain their limbs and to prevent malnutrition and starvation." This, he said, "is leading to the class struggle, and more strikes in Guyana." The government response to this is to use scabs, bring out the military and para military forces and, to justify the use of these forces, the government practically describes every strike as political, added the Opposition leader. The government feels that the opposition forces are calling strikes to bring down the government, he said.

"At the political level, the people are determined to bring down the Burnham government and increasingly the government is resorting to force and fraud," Jagan stated. He gave examples. In 1968 the government brought in overseas voting for the first time. In 1973, for the first time in history, the army came in and seized the ballot boxes, took them to their headquarters where they were allegedly changed. And in the last election in 1980, the elections were massively rigged.

"The People's National Congress (P.N.C.) regime is tottering," Jagan claimed. "It has lost support at the base." This, he said, was seen in 1978 when all opposition parties, the major trade unions, churches and groups decided to boycott the election which was postponed by the present government. In that election only 15 per cent turned out to vote as compared to 90-95 per cent in 1964 in the capital Georgetown and 60-65 per cent in 1973.

Jagan accused the government of bribing the elite at the top in Guyana. This year there was an increase in wages at the bottom of 7 and 10 per cent from January to July and from July to December an increase of 10 of 10 and 12 per cent. While those people at the top were granted an increase of 35 per cent. In special categories like judges, people in the military, the Speaker, the Attorney General the increase was 100 per cent. He said that the government is also creating "diversionary manouvres", mainly the Venezuelan border issue. Jagan noted that the PNC has the idea that the Venezuelans are threatening aggression. His party, the PPP, is of the view that there is a threat, but does not magnify it into a threat of imminent war. Jagan believes that the P.N.C. government is doing this to (a) divert attention from pressures imposed by the International Monetary Fund, (b) improve its image overseas, (c) whip up support inside Guyana, (d) deny workers' demand for wage increases, (e) use Venezuela as a scapegoat for its failure to implement the \$2 billion (US) hydro-electric smelter project and (f) beef up the military and para-military apparatus to prop it up in office.

The Border Issue

In an article written by Cheddi Jagan on the Guyana-Venezuela Border Issue, the author states that "the Venezuelan threat has avoided the regime with an

opportunity to refurbish its image overseas, which has become tarnished since 1977 as a result of the use of the military against sugar, municipal and bauxite workers, the Jonestown massacre suicide, the Walter Rodney assassination, the denial of newsprint to the opposition press, and the rigging of the 1978 Referendum and the 1980 general and regional elections. Now, the Burnham regime has mounted an international campaign, claiming that rich, powerful Venezuela is pouncing on small, struggling Guyana." He goes on, "By assuming a nationalistic-jingoistic position, the Burnham regime hopes to win support and to breakout of its total isolation at home."

In Guyana Jagan continued, the hard earned money collected from the people in steep taxation amounting to m\$500 in February this year is being dispersed for the foreign and local elite. He stated that m\$372 is being spent on debt payment and the bulk of the rest to pay the local elite; which includes the government apparatus of 5 vice presidents, and over 30 ministers of government. A combination of salaries and dept. compensation payments amounts to m\$506, six million more than revenue, Cheddi Jagan added.

"The regime in Guyana is pointing a road which is very dangerous, leading to a kind of Latin Americanisation of our politics, militarisation of our politics and a creeping dictatorship...More and more rights of the people are taken away, and if continued, ultimately there will be a bloody dictatorship of the kind experienced in Guatemala, El Salvador Haiti and the rest of Latin and Central America," stressed the P.P.P. leader. He further stated that such an occurrence can have adverse effect in the Caribbean.

Cheddi Jagan, who was the guest of the United People's Movement, left on Tuesday for Trinidad, then to Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica and Jamaica.

CSO: 3025/111

FOREIGN EXCHANGE SITUATION WORSENS; DEBTS REMAIN UNPAID

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 6 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Central Bank Governor Pat Matthews and his staff are having a headache trying to manage Guyana's foreign exchange arrangements.

The situation has worsened considerably since the start of the year, according to a senior government spokesman.

Whereas in February, say, there was just enough foreign exchange available to cover the commercial arrears, the foreign exchange has since reduced considerably while the commercial arrears keep mounting.

The result is that millions of dollars of commercial debts involving both the Private and the Public Sectors remain unpaid.

Between September and now, businessmen and State corporation officials have been trekking to the Bank of Guyana for foreign exchange without success.

"If you go to the Central Bank now you will not see the long lines as you would before", a Bank of Guyana official told the CHRONICLE.

"Most people have become resigned to the fact that there really is no foreign exchange available."

Initially, this was a matter between the Central Bank and company and corporation managers. Now, workers and members of the public generally are feeling the squeeze more and more.

"Nothing is functioning smoothly", admitted a leading Central Banker. "But it is not yet hitting the system fully because most people stocked up during the Trinidad flow."

He was referring to two payments of about \$170 million in foreign exchange support received through the Trinidad and Tobago Oil Facility. The larger payment was made in February, the smaller in September.

"If people are wondering what happened with that money, we haven't wasted it", he added.

In spite of the build-up of inventories by a number of firms, however, many are feeling the impact which is being passed on to worker and consumer alike.

One shirt factory has practically closed down. Another firm has gone on a two-day week reminiscent of the three-day shut-down during Britain's difficult days just before being saved by North Sea Oil.

Some companies, playing for time, are bundling workers off on their annual leave.

At the international level, shippers, having smaller consignments of goods for Guyana, are leaving these in Trinidad and Tobago until there are sufficient stockpiles to support special shipping arrangements.

If Government and the Central Bank did not squander the foreign exchange, what happened?

"What happened is that certain expectations of higher production from sugar, rice and bauxite have not materialised", said the Bank Official.

And, as Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid has been explaining recently, even when the worker produces, there is still the problem of prices.

The price of sugar on the world market is about half of the 300 pounds sterling predicted by Guyanese and international sugar pundits at the start of the year.

The L.D.P. [London Daily Price] for sugar was 155 pounds last Friday. has been moving between 150 and 160 pounds sterling recently. [as published] But it costs the Guyana Sugar Corporation about 200 pounds to produce a ton of sugar.

With bauxite, production is also below expected levels. And the international market is soft. So prices are low.

Rice also is proving a disappointment, in spite of an encouraging first crop.

The situation is likely to worsen before it gets better. For the remainder of the year, the bauxite industry is likely to require more from the kitty than it will contribute to it.

Sugar helped significantly to ease the Central Bank's headache during November. However, as estates run out of cane and factories begin to close down for the year, Guysuco will contribute much less foreign exchange in the period immediately ahead.

How do we get ourselves out of this situation?

The senior bank official counsels: "There is only one way out. That is for us to produce more.... And, of course, getting better prices for the things we export."

CSO: 3025/111

MILITARY DELEGATION IN BRAZIL; PPP CHARGES ARMS BUILDUP

McLean-Led Visit

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Chief of Staff Brigadier Norman McLean heads a military delegation which left Guyana last Sunday for a one-week visit to neighbouring Brazil.

According to a report from Sao Paulo the Guyanese military delegation visited the Brazilian armed forces General Staff where they attended a conference on Brazil's military industry.

Cde. McLean was received by his Brazilian counterpart General Alacyr Werner and by the acting Foreign Minister, Jose Klemente Naena Soares.

According to an Inter Press Service report from Sao Paulo, in a comment on the recent decision of the Venezuelan government to reactivate two brigades of jungle infantry to be stationed near the Guyana border with Venezuela, Cde. McLean explained that the Venezuelan move demonstrates "a threatening attitude without any justification."

He dismissed as being incredible, rumours of a Guyanese military move. "It is inconceivable, given the disparity of forces, that Guyana would consider an offensive against Venezuela," he was quoted as saying.

He was also reported as saying that Guyana was interested in purchasing aircraft, trucks and communications equipment from Brazil.

Members of the Guyanese delegation have already visited the Salvador air base in the northern state of Bahia. They are also scheduled to go to Rio De Janeiro where they will be met by the head of the First Army at the command school of the Army General Staff.

Brazil and Guyana entered into diplomatic relations on December 18, 1968.

Arms-Shopping Charge

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 Dec 81 p 4

[Text] Indications are that the PNC regime is shopping for arms, and is continuing its efforts to knock together an anti-Venezuela alliance, with Colombia

and Brazil playing an important role. At the moment Brigadier Norman McLean is in Brazil with top aides and a shopping list for weapons. To all intents and purposes the nucleus of an air force for Guyana is in the making. The people of Guyana are in for further heavy burdens.

Brigadier McLean is reported as saying in Brazil that he is interested in purchasing 'aircraft, trucks and communication equipment'. The team has already paid visits to an air base in Bahia, a State in the north of Brazil. Up to press time they are scheduled to hold talks with the Head of the Brazilian First Army in Rio de Janeiro. These talks take place at the Command School of the Army General Staff.

A report released by the GNA inferred that the tour included a 2-day trip to the Brazilian Aeronautics Company in Sao Paulo where the team examined military aircraft. Altogether Brigadier McLean and his team who left Guyana for Brazil on Sunday November 29, is due to spend one week in Brazil as guests of the military regime in that country. He was met by his 'Brazilian counterpart' General Alacyr Werner and the acting Foreign Minister Jose Klemente Naena Soares.

Foreign journalists who interviewed the Brigadier, drew his attention to a recent move by Venezuela to re-activate two brigades of jungle infantry, and to station them near the border with Guyana, and asked him for his comments. The Brigadier is reported to have described the Venezuelan move as 'a threatening attitude without any justification.' He went on to deny that Guyana has been engaged in any hostile military move, pointing out that 'it is inconceivable given the disparity of forces, that Guyana would consider an offensive against Venezuela.'

Included in the team is Colonel Desmond Roberts, former Director General of the Guyana National Service. The Colonel was recently replaced by Colonel Joe Singh in the GNS post, and has been named as Military-Attache designate to Brazil.

In the meantime while on the surface things appear to be somewhat calm, there is a lot of simmering going on below the surface. Events are moving at a dramatic pace. Only last week there was a frontier scrap between Guyana and Suriname, with Suriname alleging that military personnel from Guyana violated her airspace, and that tracer bullets were fired from the Guyana side at a Suriname frontier post. Guyana denied both allegations. Suriname also claims that Guyana is vetoing the Kabalebo Hydro-Project.

As mentioned earlier, Venezuela is fortifying the frontier area of the Orinoco (where oil deposits are located) and has introduced special combat forces into the zone. The Port of Spain Protocol between Guyana and Venezuela comes to an end on June 18, 1982, some 6 months hence.

The US government has taken a decision to strengthen Venezuelan military potential by supplying that neighbouring state to Guyana with 24 ultra-modern F-16 fighter bombers. Guyana has protested against the sale, but it is going through. Venezuela has a border dispute with Colombia also. In both Colombia and Guyana

there are powerful revolutionary forces opposing incompetent anti-popular repressive regimes.

The Reagan administration in Washington has also named a military man as Ambassador to Guyana to replace George Roberts who was shunted to Panama after his stint in Guyana ended. The Ambassador designate is Admiral General Eustis Thomas. It was only this year that General Thomas retired after 30 years of 'distinguished service' in the Navy.

The name of an experienced military man as US Envoy to Guyana may or may not have any military significance, in view of developments of a military-diplomatic nature in the Region.

CSO: 3025/111

TAX COLLECTIONS EXCEED ESTIMATES BY \$60 MILLION IN 1981

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Dec 81 pp 1, 20

[Text] The Government's revenue collectors are doing better this year than they have for many a year.

The Customs and Excise Department and the Inland Revenue Department together expect to collect about \$90 million more than was estimated at budget time, the CHRONICLE has been told.

Altogether, revenue will outstrip original estimates by about \$60 million. This is happening in spite of the fact that Guymine and a number of other government agencies are paying little or nothing in dividends and very little in Customs and Inland Revenue charges.

"If these agencies had thrown up something, we would have been in a much better position," said Finance Minister Sallahuddin on Saturday afternoon in response to an inquiry from this newspaper.

Notwithstanding these increased collections, the gap between revenue and expenditure will be somewhat higher than the \$248 million projected in the original budget.

Cde. Clarence Ellis, Chairman of the State Planning Board, explained that most of this was due not to expenditure "slippages" but to the under-estimation of certain statutory expenditures in the first place.

Generally, the State Planning Secretariat, the Ministry of Finance and the individual ministries themselves have been able to "hold...on most items." Most of the expenditure "slippages" occurred in relation to activities resulting from Venezuelan hostility against Guyana.

The man behind this improved collection is said to be President Forbes Burnham himself. For a long time, he has been stressing that if the escaping revenues were collected this would reduce the expenditure gap and obviate the need for many new taxation measures.

Taking up this theme, the State Planning Secretariat and the Bank of Guyana convinced the administration towards mid-year that the revenue collecting agencies had under-estimated their capacity to garner funds during 1981.

The estimated revenue was revised from \$500 million to \$540 million. A few months later, this was revised upwards by a further \$20 million.

Cabinet Economic Subcommittee, chaired by Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid, also contributed to driving home the seriousness of the situation. The sub-committee summoned Comptroller of Customs Paul Burnett and Commissioner of Inland Revenue Edgar Heyliger to discuss the weaknesses of their revenue collecting system and to obtain their commitment to try harder.

Cdes. Heyliger and Burnett and their staff got to work.

"Their morale is higher than ever as they are seeing the success of their efforts," said Cde. Sallahuddin, the man especially charged by the President to get the revenue collected.

Cde. Sallahuddin added that this increased activity took place despite the loss of staff from both of the major agencies. He explained how they did it.

The Customs and Excise Department, he said, recognised that import duties did not weigh as heavily in the past now that the Government was encouraging import substitution.

So, they shifted their emphasis to the investigation of dodging the payment of consumption taxes.

These now top the list of Customs and Excise collections. Import duties come next. Beer is third.

Unfortunately, they lost \$6 million in duty on beer by the end of November, owing to production problems in this industry.

Also Customs officials at Springlands and Timehri have increased their takings. "Although these increases do not represent much in terms of millions of dollars we are talking about increases of 500 per cent or 600 per cent," the Minister explained.

He as well as Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, Cde. Desmond Hoyte, has paid personal attention to this whole process, including the situation at Timehri and Springlands.

Meanwhile, the Inland Revenue Department has been keeping a closer check on private enterprise employers to ensure that income taxes are both deducted and paid over to the Government. It has been equally necessary to check on public enterprises and ministries.

In fact, by the 10th of each month, every accounting officer (the Permanent Secretary in the case of a Ministry and the Regional Executive Officer in the case of a regional democratic council) must submit to the Finance Minister a certificate of compliance.

This certificate affirms that they had collected and paid over certain revenues during the period month.

"So", according to Cde. Sallahuddin, "they can't collect revenue and hold it."

The result of this success is that the revenue collecting agencies will be required to try even harder next year.

Cabinet Economic Subcommittee is likely to insist on higher revenue estimates. The Ministry of Finance is unlikely to resist.

According to Minister Sallahuddin, "The lesson we have been able to draw this year is that there is a lot of revenue to be collected."

CSO: 3025/111

REGIONAL COUNCILS TO GET BIGGER SLICE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Dec 81 pp 1, 16

[Text]

GUYANA's ten regional democratic councils are coming into their own as full partners with central government in the administration and development of the country.

By year-end, the newly established councils would have spent more than \$40 million on central government funds to do work in their respective areas. This is about 5 per cent of the national budget. But it is significant compared with the past when local government councils operated on their own shoe-strings except for the occasional grant or loan of a few thousand dollars dispensed through the now defunct Local Government Board.

Next year, this figure will increase significantly. According to some estimates, it could even approach — though hardly surpass — 10 per cent of the overall estimates.

One of the results of Government's new approach to local democracy has been the upgrading of Regional Executive Officers to full accounting officers. This means that the councils no longer have to depend on the

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development to administer funds passed by Parliament for the regions.

It also means that they are directly accountable to the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly for any financial maladministration.

The system has worked fairly well, according to an official government spokesman. He explained that there would be some overspending through no fault of the regions, in most cases. These are mainly the result of the dual responsibility during the first half of the year when both the councils and the Ministry found themselves committing available funds.

Although there is growing sympathy for the councils, their 1982 programmes will be no less vigorously scrutinised than those submitted by Ministries. Officials of the State Planning Secretariat will interview each Regional Chairman together with his or her Regional Executive Officer and other senior advisers for a full day, if

necessary, during this month.

An official of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance explained to the Chronicle that many of the projects carried out by the local democratic councils during 1981 would have been neglected if left to central government agencies to identify.

In his budget speech on 81-02-20, Cde Desmond Hoyte, Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, disclosed that "many functions, which hitherto had been performed by the Central Government in the Regions would now devolve on the local democratic organs; and public officials within the various regions would be accountable to the local democratic organs—the elected representatives of the people whom the officials serve".

So far these functions which have been "regionalised" include works and hydraulics, co-operatives and agriculture. Next year, a number will be added, including social assistance and forestry.

Regional democratic councils are likely to be

responsible for the collection of royalties at least on forestry resources. But they will have to pay these into the Inland Revenue Department.

For next year, councils are expected to link the identification of projects to be executed to the capacity of the region to produce.

For example, they will have to identify their most productive lands, and what those lands are likely to produce during the year. Then they must decide those drainage and irrigation and other works which are required for the success of their production efforts.

With the regions taking on this kind of project planning and implementation, the role of the Ministries is likely to be confined to policy formulation and, to some degree, monitoring and perhaps quality control.

It has been pointed out that certain functions — such as the police — might remain with central government for a very long time. With regard to some others, such as health and education, there is still internal discussion as to when — not whether — they should be fully "regionalised".

REASSIGNMENT OF MINISTRY, OTHER OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED

Appointments, Reassignments

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] The Office of the President has announced the following re-assignments and appointments to take effect from December 1, 1981:

The Ministry of Forestry becomes part of the responsibility of the Minister of National Development, Cde Robert Corbin.

Drainage and Irrigation and Crops and Livestock in the Ministry of Agriculture have now been brought together under the direct responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture, Cde Joe Tyndall, and Cde Seeram Prashad becomes Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Cde Frank Campbell has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Guyana National Newspapers Limited and the Ministry of Information becomes the responsibility of the Prime Minister, Cde Ptolemy Reid along with the Public Service Ministry.

Cde Yvonne Harewood Benn becomes Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister.

The number of Parliamentary Secretaries in the Office of the Prime Minister has been reduced by one and Cde Enid Bynoe has been assigned other duties within the Party.

Cde Joshua Chowritmootoo has been assigned political duties and the Ministry of Environment and Water Supply becomes the responsibility of the Minister of Health, Dr. Richard Van West Charles.

Cde Basdeo Bhaggan has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cde Donald Ainsworth, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture.

Cde Harry Dyett, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has gone on pre-retirement leave, and Cde Dennis Gouveia has been appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 81 p 1

[Excerpts]

THE NEW arrangements announced in last Saturday's Cabinet reshuffle took effect yesterday when four Ministers became ordinary citizens once again.

They are Comrades Joshua Chowritmootoo, formerly Minister, Environment and Water Supply, in the Ministry of Public Welfare; Fitz Carmichael, formerly Minister, Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture; Frank Campbell, former Minister of Information; and Ralph Van Sluytman, former Minister, Drainage and Irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Cde. Enid Bynoe, until then Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, is also affected by the shake-up.

Minister Prashad survives the re-shuffle but, as 'Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture' he has no direct responsibility. It could not be ascertained up to late yesterday whether he had been asked by Cde. Tyndall to undertake any specific role or will be called upon to assist generally in the work of the Ministry.

However, Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid on Monday night summoned a meeting with the Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Chief Information Officer of the

Cde. Robert Corbin's Ministry of National Development continues to be part of that cluster. Cde. Corbin, 'the youthful and'

steadily rising First Vice-Chairman of his Party, now adds Forestry to his Portfolio.

This means that he assumes direct responsibility not only for the Ministry of Forestry (until now part of Cde. Tyndall's 'cluster') but also for the Forestry Commission, Guyana Timbers Ltd. and Demerara Woods Ltd.

He will also answer for the Guyana Timber Export Board until draft legislation to scrap it and merge its functions into those of the Forestry Commission becomes law.

Cde. Corbin is the third Minister to have responsibility for Forestry during the past eleven months counting from Cde. Hubert Jack who headed the Ministry until after last December's general election.

Another rising star, Minister of Health Richard Van-West Charles, adds Environment and Water Supply to his other responsibility, leaving Cde. Chowritmootoo free to assume new 'political duties.' The Guyana Water Authority now therefore comes under his political supervision.

Last Saturday's ministerial re-shuffle was one with a difference. There were no new Ministers. This lends some credence to earlier speculation that the President wishes to trim the government a little.

However, two new parliamentary secretaries assumed duties yesterday. They are back-benchers Donald Ainsworth (Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, and Basdeo Bhaggan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs.).

GREEN, CAMPBELL NAMED TO PNC CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 81 pp 1, 24

[Text]

COMRADES Hamilton Green and Frank Campbell have been co-opted as members of the People's National Congress' Central Executive Committee, according to an official announcement.

Comrades Green and Campbell previously served on the Central Executive, Cde Green as an elected member and Cde Campbell appointed.

The committee has been strengthened by their inclusion which is in addition to the seven members elected by the Fourth Biennial Congress, seven elected by the last General Council and the top officers of the party appointed by Cde Leader Forbes Burnham.

Those elected by Congress are Cdes LFB Burnham, Leader; B. Ramsaroop, Chairman; Robert Corbin, First Vice-Chairman, S.S. Naraine, Second Vice-Chairman; Urmie Johnson, Asst General Secretary, Hyacinth Godett, Treasurer, John Joaquim, Co-Treasurer (who is still at home ill since before Congress).

Those elected by General Council are Cdes Desmond Hoyte, Shirley Field Ridley, Harun Rashid, Robert Williams, Ranji Chandisingh, Ganesh Singh and Salahuddin.

Comrade Leader are General Secretary Cde Ptolemy Reid; Executive Secretaries Cdes R. Maitland Singh (Economic Affairs), Malcolm Parris (International

Relations), Leslie Dundas (Finance and Administration), Norma Younge (Education and Research), Gowkarran Sharma (Regional Affairs and Public Welfare), Vincent Britton (Regional Affairs and Public Welfare Field Activities), and Henry Josiah, Editor, NEW NATION.

Also on the Central Executive Committee are National Chairman of the YSM Cde Eugene Gilbert and Cde Viola Burnham, National Chairman, WRSM.

CSO: 3025/110

ST LUCIA DELEGATION ENDS VISIT, BACKS GUYANA'S INTEGRITY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 81 p 16

[Text]

Three members of the four-man Saint Lucian delegation left Georgetown Sunday night, reaffirming their island's support for the principle of territorial integrity and sovereignty for Guyana in keeping with declaration of principle made on the issue at the Grenada meeting of Caricom ministers and at the Commonwealth summit in Melbourne.

The team from the Saint Lucia Labour Party came to Guyana last Thursday evening to hold talks with officials of the People's National Congress with whom the party has links and with government authorities.

Speaking just before their departure for the Timehri International Airport leader of the delegation Cde Remy Leemond, a member of the ruling party's committee of management and the island's Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, observed that though the negotiating table was the proper place for the matter to be resolved, he found no contradiction in noting the strong case which Guyana has.

And making a comment on the team's three-day visit, General Secretary of the

party, Neville Cenac expressed pleasant surprise at the reality of the Guyana situation.

He felt that the international press had been doing a great injustice to Guyana.

Cde Cenac was of the opinion that Guyana possessed "sober and mature leadership" which had been placing correct emphasis on agricultural self-sufficiency. He also lauded the country's education programme, noting that "a penny spent on education is worth more than a thousand pennies spent anywhere else."

The team which included Daphne Murray, Assistant General Secretary of the party held discussions with top officials of the PNC and paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister Cde Pindney Reid and other government officials while here. They also visited a number of places of interest.

The Saint Lucia Labour Party and the PNC have agreed on the broad basis of co-operation between the two organisations, officials of both sides are to follow-up certain agreements.

The leader of the delegation left for an onward mission in Venezuela while other members of the team headed for home. (GNA)

BRIEFS

MINISTRY ASSISTANTS--Cde. Z. Khan has been appointed Agricultural Assistant in the Ministry of Agriculture, while Cde. Vernon Thomas has been confirmed as a Labour Officer, Ministry of Public Welfare. The appointments, along with that of Cde. M. Raghunandan, Training Officer, Public Service Ministry, were announced in the weekend publication of the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. Meanwhile, Cdes. R. Singh and E. Semple have been appointed to act as Agricultural Officers in the Ministry of Agriculture. Other acting appointments are those of Cde. G. Benjamin, as Senior Probation and Welfare Officer, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, Cde. J. Brusch, Assistant Secretary, Public Welfare, Cde. A. Roberts, Senior Radiographer, Ministry of Health, Cde. W. Lewis, Principal Training Office, Public Service Ministry and Cde. C. Alleyne, Auditor, Auditor-General's Department. Meanwhile, Cdes. M. Cox, A. Callender and Cdes. D. Swamy, are acting Principal Assistant Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Personnel Officer, Ministry of Information. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Dec 81 p 10]

CUBAN DOCTORS--Eighteen Cuban doctors are in the country to begin a two-year contract with the Guyana Government. They are here under an agreement of the Guyana-Cuba Mixed Commission. Part of the batch of 24, the 18 doctors, including five women, met Health Minister, Dr. Richard Van-West Charles yesterday. The remaining six are due here by December 24. There is one surgeon on the team. The others are physicians, paediatricians, dentists, general medical officers, and a radio therapist. Minister Charles, who welcomed the Cubans, wishing them a successful and happy stay here, said they would be attached to various hospitals in the country. So far, 71 doctors from Cuba have worked here under the Guyana-Cuba Mixed Commission agreement. [Text] Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 81 p 1]

NEW 'CHRONICLE' EDITOR--Comrade Frank Campbell yesterday assumed responsibilities as Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of Guyana National Newspapers Limited, publishers of the DAILY CHRONICLE and SUNDAY CHRONICLE newspapers. Cde. Campbell who has been Minister of Information since January and Minister of State for Information during the years 1979 and 1980, will also hold the post of General Manager of GNNL. A former journalist with the old CHRONICLE in Main Street, Cde. Campbell has held the post of Editor of NEW NATION, the organ of the People's National Congress. He was one of three Guyanese in the first batch of students to participate in the Diploma in Mass Communications course at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica in 1974/75. He was awarded a distinction for his outstanding academic performance in the course. In 1975 Cde. Campbell entered the diplomatic service and was posted

to Cuba as Guyana's first Resident Ambassador to the Caribbean country. Following his three years in Cuba, Cde. Campbell returned to Guyana and accepted the portfolio of Minister of State For Information. After the 1980 general election he was promoted Minister of Information. As head of Guyana National Newspapers, Cde. Campbell succeeds Cde. Harry Harewood who is on leave prior to another appointment. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 81 p 1]

STATEMENT ON ALIENS--The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement expressing concern about foreigners who are allowed to take up employment here without the Ministry's approval. The statement reads: It has been observed that non-citizens are being invited by employers to come to Guyana to take up employment without prior approval being obtained from the Ministry of Home Affairs. This action on the part of employers has caused embarrassment to the prospective employees on the invitees' arrival, as Immigration Officers, in the absence of notification from the Ministry, grant an entry permit for them for only a limited period of time, with the endorsement that they are "not permitted to take up employment in the country". To avoid this the prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs ought to be sought in reasonable time before non-citizens are invited to come to Guyana for the purpose of taking up employment. It should be noted that this requirement applies to both paid and unpaid unemployment, as well as to ministers of religion and other persons employed by churches or other religious organisations. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Dec 81 p 1]

POLICE STATION FIRE--Six persons have been detained by the Police with regard to the death of a policeman and the burning down of a police outpost at Mora Point, Mahaicony River, last Sunday. The policeman, Constable John Tony, died in the pre-dawn fire, and a quantity of arms usually lodged at the station has disappeared. Constable Tony was on duty at the outpost when the fire started, and efforts by residents to put it out failed. The building was razed. Residents nearby claim that they heard gunfire shortly before the fire started. In pictures Crime Chief Cecil 'Skip' Roberts (second from right) and other officers visit the scene of the fire, and the concrete blocks on which the outpost was erected stand amid the ruins. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 81 p 13]

CUBAN AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS--Cuba's Ambassador to Guyana, Ivan Cesar Martinez has rebutted US claims that Cuba was planning to subvert and destabilise other Caribbean states. At a Press conference Thursday the Cuban diplomat said that the United States was the only country that wanted to subvert other states, but that it was attempting to pass on the blame to others. "The US is the only country that wants to destabilise any other country," Martinez said. He referred to the United States as the only power with military bases in these parts, with facilities in Guantanamo in Cuba, in Puerto Rico, and in Panama. Only the United States flew spy planes in the region or had aircraft carriers patrolling the Caribbean, he argued. The Ambassador condemned the US government for its attempted invasion of his country in 1961, and stated that Washington was now threatening to invade Cuba and Grenada, while making threatening statements about developments in Guyana and Suriname. (IPS) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Dec 81 p 1]

ZIMBABWE MISSION--A two-man mission from Zimbabwe, led by that country's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Eugert Mashaire, left Georgetown yesterday for Kingston after a successful one week visit. The team, which included First Secretary in the country's Washington Embassy, Nicholas Goche, came here to hold discussions with government officials in relation to the training of students by the Guyana Government and to meet the 10 students currently studying here. While in Guyana, the two diplomats met the permanent secretaries in the National Development and Foreign ministries, and paid courtesy calls on the acting Foreign Minister, Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen and Education Minister Jeffrey Thomas. They also had a brief meeting with the President. The mission, the first from Zimbabwe to Guyana since that country gained its independence early last year expressed great interest in the operations and objectives of the Guyana National Service. They also expressed the hope that more of their students would be accepted for training here under the technical assistance programme offered by Guyana. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 3025/112

BRIEFS

CO-OP DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR--Arriving in the State last week was Guyanese-born Mr. Oswald Patrick. Mr. Patrick arrived in St. Kitts from Tortola, where he worked as a Co-operatives Development Advisor to that Government, under U.N.D.P. Technical Assistance Programme. He will serve as Co-operatives Advisor to the State for two years. Mr. Patrick held discussions with the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Tourism, Michael Powell, and officials in his Ministry, as well as the Permanent Secretary in the Establishments Division. Mr. Patrick visited Nevis where he held discussions with the Honourable Minister of Nevis Affairs, Simeon Daniel, his Permanent Secretary, as well as members of the Co-operatives Societies on the island. Before his assignment in Tortola, Mr. Patrick served as General Manager of the Guyana Co-operatives Credit Society in Guyana and was also Principal and Chief Administrative Officer of the Kuru Kuru Co-operatives College there. Mr. Patrick's services to the Government of this State have been made available through technical assistance from C.F.T.C. as part of Government's policy towards the development of Co-operatives in the State. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 12 Dec 81 p 10]

CSO: 3025/117

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR COURTING ECONOMIC DISASTER

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 21 Nov 81 pp 12-13

[Text]

IN ITS editorial of 8 November the Castries Chronicle has called for a Government of national unity but with the alternative that the people themselves take over if it fails.

As the majority of St. Lucians have already asserted it would be a betrayal of the country to enter into any more consultations with a government which after two years of opportunity has succeeded only to bring St. Lucia to the brink of economic disaster because of its "selfishness in politics".

What we need most urgently rather is not a continuation of mismanagement of the affairs of the state with the present crop that form the Government, even though they were assisted by others in a compromise, is a new government, a government by the people, for the people! And the only way to effect this change is to go back to the polls!

DEMONSTRATED

Isn't a government mandated to serve the people? But the members of this Government have declared by their actions that they intend to serve themselves! The people, however, have already demonstrated their displeasure throughout the State and are demanding new elections in no uncertain terms! They do not want a consultative committee!

We have listened enough to the screams and rantings of the honourable nine in the House of Assembly, on radio and TV. In the honourable House they were recently accused of "taking" rather than "making", but to cover their shame they decreed that the word "take" should not be uttered in the House! Yet those of us who were listening to a certain part of the "No Confidence" debate distinctly heard such expressions as "You rat," "I'm coming after your tail" being hurled at the Opposition without censure! Should we not then break off engagements with these men who have made this island the laughing stock of the Caribbean?

Our memories are not so short that we have forgotten that the man who now holds office of Foreign Minister, Peter Josie, tore to pieces the contract that Hess Oil made with the previous Government of the UWP, indicating that his party was against Hess establishing a company here. And who has benefitted most personally from Hess? Josie, as Minister of Agriculture! But Hess has spent over 390 million in St. Lucia since its establishment here and a large portion of this amount was made up of grants and contributions to Government! That St. Lucia has not collapsed completely, therefore, is due in no small measure to Hess!

Another important factor that St. Lucians will always remember is how vehemently the members of this Government fought to prevent St. Lucia from gaining independence. How they jeered at John Compton, St. Lucia's first Prime Minister, who steered the country from a colony to an independent state! Now, because of her status St. Lucia can be admitted to membership of many world organizations — is, in fact, a member of the United Nations — and therefore can be represented at meetings of international importance! This means that many avenues are now open to St. Lucia for economic development.

INTENTION

Yet the members of this Government have been roaming the seas and visiting countries of the super-powers as if to refresh their minds of geographical facts long forgotten, but failing to bring back any "fish", not even sardines. They have been using "nets" torn or rendered un-seaworthy by their utter disregard of the wishes of the people that they were to serve! Their intention is to use their new-found power to revel over those who honestly criticize them and to gloat over those whom they have usurped from office! These are the honourable men whose manifesto indicated a government of consultation with the people but who dare not come out to face them now!

The Government treasury is empty, but there are schools to be built and reconstructed; civil servants and teachers are demanding more pay; daily paid workers have been promised so much more on their wages; unemployment is rising at an alarming rate. Thus they are frantically engaged at the moment in trying to boost their image, a visage already tarnished beyond repair, by boasting of the fact that the OAS is to meet here shortly. But in the impecunious condition that St. Lucia is this sounds more like "Operation Asure St. Lucie"! to determine who shall take care of the body afterwards. I hope the Government is aware that the OAS is in serious financial difficulty and is unable to meet salaries of its officials for this month. But who shall bear the considerable expense that the meeting will entail for our poor but hospitable country? Did I hear someone whisper, "Hess?" God bless him!

Two important bits of information appeared in the press recently — the Foreign Minister was in Guyana "consulting" with Burnham on government systems and the same Minister made a secret visit to Libya which was sponsored by Burnham! What was Josie's mission? Did his Cabinet

colleagues know and approve of it? But when a Minister of Government goes to consult with leaders whose tendencies are known to be revolutionary and violent then some ulterior or sinister motive is suspected! Josie cannot face the people now but he has to later — so he makes sure that he can get protection before hand!

To analyse those nine units of humanity that hold St. Lucia to ransom is to discover that they are held together by the slender thread of self-aggrandizement! For how could nine honourable men hold on to office at such terrible cost to

the country, in defiance of public outrage? This is an indication, I am afraid, that the souls of men and women are outside all measurement. While some may be humble enough to pray to the Almighty for guidance others demonstrate a contemptuous boldness to invoke the devil in hell in order to get what they want!

Thus the secret hearts of men — the hearts of the honourable nine included — must defy comparison with formulae

CSO: 3025/114

COMPTON ASKS PURGE OF CIVIL SERVICE POLITICAL APPOINTEES

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 21 Nov 81 p 3

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader John Compton has called for a purge in the public service to rid it of "political appointees."

Compton, addressing the convention of his United Workers Party at Choiseul last Sunday claimed that in two years, the Civil Service, "once the principal instrument of our administration and development", was now so infiltrated with political appointees "that the ablest and best seek retirement while those who remain are disillusioned, dispirited and disgruntled that the entire machinery of Government grinds slowly to a halt." He said:

"We must restore the Civil Service to its position as an efficient instrument of administration and a competent organization for the execution of Government's plans and programmes. We must remove from their midst any taint of political bias and return to them that reputation for impartiality that they once had."

"We must ensure that our teachers are trained and motivated for the preparation of our young, for their responsibilities in an independent and progressive nation. The police must so conduct themselves, that they attract thereby the respect for the law, for the observance of which they are charged."

"But in order to discharge these responsibilities all sections of the public services must be properly motivated by training and

renumeration. It may be too much not to expect certain elements of the Public Services to conduct themselves in a manner unbecoming to their position and responsibilities; when they are faced with evidence of unbecoming conduct from those who should set the example

"It is too much to expect a Public Servant to carry out his duties with diligence and fidelity when causes for their discontent are not removed. How can a staff nurse discipline a ward maid whose pay is greater than her own. Or a headmistress, the janitor or a Permanent Secretary, the handy man? But this is the status to which the Public Services are reduced. Is it any wonder that their dissatisfaction is so much in evidence?"

"Because of irresponsibility in dealing with financial matters, the Government has completely upset the pay differential between the established public officer and the daily paid worker. This differential must be restored; but when it is, the effects will be felt throughout the community and the economic consequence will be catastrophic. But if it is not, there will be a complete breakdown of the Public Service as public officers will inevitably and understandably take protest action. Such is the price we must pay where there is no leadership. The people must suffer."

Both Compton and deputy party leader George Mallet were re-elected to their positions at the helm of the UWP following — a unanimous vote of confidence in them by party delegates.

COLUMNIST JAMES SEES LEFTIST THREAT TO ST LUCIA CAPITALISM

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 81 p 10

[Article by Willie James]

[Text]

Caribbean Socialists, from Jamaica in the North to Guyana in the South, are in the throes of mounting a take-over assault on St. Lucia. And the aim is to transform St. Lucia into a Communist or Socialist Grenada.

We are now being told that the revolutionary Government of Grenada is the best organised of the mini-states. We are targeted to fall prey to the Socialist movement. And next in line, would be Dominica.

The interest in St. Lucia is further cemented as it is really the most focally located of all the East Caribbean chain of small islands. St. Lucia is intended to serve as the facility bridge to gain access to the other members of the chain.

Obviously, St. Lucia at this crucial period, is vulnerable. It is ripe for penetration. And the process has been set in motion. The strategy being employed is the erstwhile communist propagandic preparation campaign. It is intended to heighten perturbations. It takes the form of a concerted bombardment of the existing capitalist system for a couple of weeks. Note the language.

Inequitable distribution of wealth. Social inequality justifies need for new social and economic order. Rampant corruption in Government aided by incompetence, ineptitude, mismanagement and instability.

EFFORTS

The next few weeks, the campaign persists with a character smearing of personalities and the process repeats itself. It has been found that the underprivileged, frustrated, gullible, and insane nourish on such insidious campaigns.

Unfortunately, the SLP Government has yielded a great deal of fodder on which to operate. Efforts at discrediting the capitalist system are being co-ordinated by, the now corpulent George Odum with his PLP and a not insignificant group called the Cuba/St. Lucia Friendship Association.

While Odum ceaselessly chips away at the loose parts of the Establishment and besmirches its members, the Cuba/St. Lucia Friendship Association distributes subversive literature lauding Socialism and Cuba.

SOCIALISM

It is astonishing how many St. Lucians are unable to understand what is taking place. They are yielding to being enslaved. And another phase of the subversion will be on exhibition next month when the Caribbean militants meet here in St. Lucia.

While the names of the arrivals have not yet been made public, Rosie Douglas of Dominica and one Chung of Jamaica, Coarde of Grenada are among the notorious clique expected to rampage here.

And what will these misfits of our Caribbean Society discuss? Dismantling the Society Rescuing the Caribbean from Capitalism and Venezuelan expansionism. The Caribbean should be a Zone of Peace.

What a paradox! These political activists subscribe to the overthrow of Governments and other subversive exercises. They preach violence to transport them to their goals, and yet they mouth the word Peace.

It should be noted that their connotation of peace, is Socialism. It is also interesting to note that the Peace aspect of this nefarious socialist package, originates out of Guyana. That State's President Forbes Burnham is the financier of what is now known as the Peace Committee. It has a subsidy of US\$200,000.

Loquacious Peter Josie was obviously impressed with the Burnham briefing when he visited Guyana some four months ago. He in turn dispatched Leroy Butcher to Georgetown for discussions there.

Once an irrepressible activist, Butcher returned home from Georgetown remarkably enthusiastic with jet like speed to change the system within which he is trapped, an ardent capitalist.

Fiery Barrister, Hilford Deterville was also snared into that Peace Committee. He was appointed Chairman Trade Unionist, Tyrone Maynard was being lassoed into the Committee but he dodged the attempt and bounded.

Last week, Deterville was replaced by St. Lucia's Jamaica's Rasta, Barrister Miguel Lorne, now resident here. His appointment revealed a conflict of interests within the framework of the aims and aspirations of Burnham's Peace Committee and the Socialist thrust.

Is this Socialist Jamaican pre-occupied with the solidarity of the Caribbean rastas? Does he give it priority over the throttling of Capitalism and the foisting of Socialist ideas on the unsuspecting people of the Caribbean by the non-rastas element? Obviously he does.

As Chairman of the Committee Rasta Lorne will ensure that members of his movement will not be exploited. Conversely, the non-Rasta element seem to resent being led by a stranger and a Rasta at that! Here the

solidarity crumbles. Both Butcher and Deterville have abandoned Burnham's Peace Committee within weeks of its launching in Barbados.

While it is difficult to conceive that conservative Prime Minister Cenac would allow this proposed solidarity meeting to be held here, in St. Lucia under the aegis of his Government. Foreign Minister Josie's close association with it only heightens the disunity in Government, ideologically.

The double role being assumed by Josie reminds one of prostitution. Remember he boasted that he would accommodate "the devil in hell to develop St. Lucia". He accepted Burnham's posture on Venezuela's claims to a substantial portion of Guyana. He expressed understanding, sympathy and solidarity.

Shortly after he stands on the platform during the inauguration ceremony of three Venezuelan Companies at Vieux Fort and showers encomiums on the Venezuelans for their confidence in St. Lucia. He expresses a sentiment of friendship and cooperation which ought not to be taken seriously.

Josie is associated with this Caribbean solidarity meeting here and last week's sharp exchanges at the OAS meeting in New York between the Venezuelan Ambassador and St. Lucia's Barry Auguste is

an indication of Josie's supportive stand.

There is a clause observed at the OAS that States involved in territorial disputes are not admitted into this regional grouping until all claims are settled. St. Lucia disregarded this and asked that an amendment be made to the clause.

DOMINANT

It proposed the entry of Guyana and Belize.

This obviously has implications as St. Lucia has got itself involved and taking sides in the Guyana/Venezuela dispute. And as Josie and Odum are agreed on this Caribbean solidarity exercise. They crave the same ambition. The power to dominate people and control their lives. They are now travelling their socialist journey on different avenues. And very likely on a collision course.

Notwithstanding, this Caribbean solidarity meeting must not be dismissed as of little import. It is a vicious two pronged Marxist Socialist and Burnham Socialist exercise.

One aims at eradicating the capitalist free enterprise society and establish Statism. The other aims at Caribbean solidarity against Venezuela.

If the two thrusts are permitted to jell the implications and ramifications could be horrendous. A freedom and liberty lost to St. Lucia à la Grenada style. We must resist it at all costs.

[Editor's Note: The above Willie James article did not appear in issues of the Castries THE VOICE and THE WEEKEND VOICE of 11, 18, 21, 25 and 28 November and 2 December 1981.]

CSO: 3025/114

LATEST IN CIVIL SERVANTS' WAGE ISSUE: REJECTION OF IMF ROLE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 28 Nov 81 p 1

[Article by Lawrence James]

[Text]

A NEW development in the negotiations of salary increases for Public Servants is likely to show up. And according to Laurie Auguste, Civil Service Association secretary, and spokesman for the three Public Service Associations, which have recently teamed up, if an agreement cannot be reached salary negotiations may have to be suspended and retroactive pay owed to public servants by Government be requested.

As far as retroactive pay is concerned Government is still owing two months - November and December 1980 - to public servants, Mr. Auguste told the VOICE. He noted that according to the terms of the escalator agreement a further five percent increase in salaries was due as of November 1, this year which would bring the total percentage increase to 25 percent.

Officials of the Civil Service Association, Teachers' Union and Nurses Association met last Thursday to unify their positions after individually rejecting the offer by the Government for an overall 45 percent pay increase over the next three years based on 1977 base salaries. But the servants are demanding an 80 percent pay hike over the next three years based on current salary negotiations.

In a joint letter to Government the associations noted that "because of the common nature of our request for salary increases that a joint negotiating team be formed to negotiate salary increases in the Public Service".

The letter, which was copied to Secretary of Government's negotiating team, Fitzgerald Louisy, noted that because of the common approach, the joint negotiating team was requesting a meeting with the Government's negotiating team for Thursday November 26. But according to a spokesman for the joint team the meeting was not possible since Mr. George Theophilus, head of the Government's negotiating team, was out of the state. But Mr. Theophilus

was expected in the state yesterday and a meeting between the two parties is scheduled for tomorrow.

The joint public service negotiating team is expected to comprise members of all three associations including the presidents.

The rejection of Government's 45 percent offer comes in the wake of what the public servants think "would make no difference to the present condition of public servants considering salary scales and the cost of living allowance paid by Government."

Meanwhile, in a joint press statement the three associations have totally rejected putting their faith and country's future into the hands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The associations view the IMF as "that trojan horse of imperialism."

The letter states that the IMF had consistently made recommendations which were totally anti-worker, and in which workers were called upon to make sacrifices in the face of "blatant extravagance, corruption, luxurious standards for the ruling elite and continuing tribute to foreign parasites".

The associations further noted that "we have to know and understand that we will

be reduced to skin and bones unless we are prepared to struggle to put a stop to the IMF medicine before it is too late."

The letter adds that with this in mind "we reject entirely the imputation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter Josie, on Wednesday to the effect that the impending salary increase to Teachers, Civil Servants and Nurses is the major reason for a cut-back in social services and subsidies."

The associations have interpreted this as an attempt by the Minister to mislead the public and to direct attention away from the real issue of stringent IMF demands which must be satisfied if the Government is to receive IMF loans.

The servants have also promised to reject "most vehemently" any attempts by the Government to callously use salary increases demanded by them as the basis for a cut-back in social services and subsidies and further upcoming fiscal measures which the Government is most likely to take if the IMF insists.

The letter concludes: "We want to make it clear that we are not going to respond to any attacks by defence but instead we will respond to all attacks with counter-attacks."

BRIEFS

NEW RADIO CHIEF--Mr. Neville Cenac, is the new Manager of Radio St. Lucia. His appointment follows the resignation of Mr. Hunter Francois who was appointed Parliamentary Commissioner over the weekend. Mr. Cenac, brother of Prime Minister Winston Cenac, is also Chairman of the Caretaker Castries City Council which was appointed earlier this year and whose membership has been reduced from seven to two because of resignations. [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 18 Nov 81 p 1]

JOSIE IN LIBYA--Foreign Minister Peter Josie was due back here yesterday from a secret visit to Libya. The VOICE understands that Mr. Josie's trip to the Arab State of Colonel Muramur Gadaffi was arranged by the Lybian Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana. Before going to Libya, reportedly on an aid-hunting mission, Mr. Josie also visited London, the VOICE was told. [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 18 Nov 81 p 1]

COMPTON ON ELECTIONS--The Opposition UWP will never accept power unless freely elected by the people. That's what UWP Leader John Compton told his party supporters at Choiseul last Sunday. Mr. Compton announced that his party would intensify its campaign to topple the SLP Government and added that the UWP intended to restore St. Lucia "to that position of honour and respect which it once held." But he added: "This party will never accept power unless freely elected by the ballot. We have openly condemned, and do so again condemn, any Government which holds power other than by the will of its people, and our condemnation is louder when such an aberration exists within our own region and when such a Government participates in our own Councils with no attempt to correct this departure from the parliamentary traditions of our region." [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 21 Nov 81 p 3]

ATTACK ON JOSIE'S CAR--Police say they suspect foul play in the burning of a Government car driven by Trade, Tourism and Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Josie. The car, one of the new 'ponies' donated to St. Lucia by the Government of South Korea, was found ablaze by the Minister shortly after 12.45 am Wednesday morning while it was parked outside his home at Black Mallet in his own constituency. In an interview with St. Lucia Television Thursday night, Mr. Josie said he was working on his speech for the Organisation of American States (OAS) general assembly when he heard some noise coming from outside, and when he moved to investigate, he found the back of the car on fire. The Minister said that he called the Fire Department and then made an effort to extinguish the blaze with water, but the car was well alight and his actions

were futile. The fire brigade arrived on the scene some 20 minutes later and brought the fire under control, but not before his house was edged by the flames. Mr. Josie revealed that he had given the police names of likely suspects for investigation. Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports said that the Minister and his family didn't sleep at home on Wednesday night fearing an attack on their lives. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 28 Nov 81 p 1]

VENEZUELAN CENTER--The Venezuelan Government will be opening a Venezuela Centre in St. Lucia. No date has been given for the opening but the Centre, to be known as the Venezuelan Co-Operation Centre in St. Lucia, will be situated on the 2nd Floor of Adjodha Building on the Wm. Peter Boulevard in Castries, as an annex to the Embassy. According to a statement from the Embassy, the main objectives of the Centre will be: To promote and organise the exchanges between Venezuela and St. Lucia in the fields of education, literature, arts, science, sports, and in general to highlight all those initiatives that present a better knowledge of the culture, history, geography, economic and social customs of both countries; To stimulate the cooperation between the community organizations of both countries; To promote the learning of Spanish, among other things. Membership to the Centre will be open to senior secondary school students, but parental approval will be required for those students under 18 years of age. Membership will be open to employees of both public and private sectors as well as other St. Lucians who are interested in the goals of the Centre. The Embassy says that due to the nature of activities to be undertaken by the Centre, only qualified persons should request information regarding membership to P.O. Box 494, Castries. [Text] [Castries THE VOICE in English 2 Dec 81 p 2]

CSO: 3025/115

CPTU SEEKS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION, PLACES ON GOV'T BODIES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Dec 81 p 3

[Text] The Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU) is insisting that it should be officially recognised by the Government and as such be entitled to representation at international labour conferences and on the boards of government statutory bodies. [as published]

The call for increased recognition came when the CPTU delegation, headed by president general, Mr. Cecil Paul, and general secretary Mr. Michael Als met with new Minister of Labour Social Security and Cooperatives, Mr. Errol Mahabir on Tuesday.

Both the minister and the CPTU issued Press releases on the meeting and the consensus was that the meeting between the parties was fruitful.

CPTU indicated that matters raised included the recognition of the council.

"The council pointed out that its membership included workers involved in very important areas of economic activity in the country, for example, oil, electricity and public transport and it therefore felt that it should be afforded recognition by Government," the statement from Mr. Mahabir indicated.

The statement added that the council drew to the attention of Mr. Mahabir the fact that the existing tax structure had an adverse effect on workers' earnings, particularly in relation to overtime and cost of living allowance.

This, it was indicated, served as a disincentive for workers to voluntarily agree to overtime work.

According to the CPTU, general secretary Als raised the matter of the Texstyle strike which is now going into its third year.

Other issues raised included the Citi Bank litigation against the Minister of Labour which is due to be heard in the High Court on December 17, recognition delays and delays in the issuing of unresolved certificates, the roles of industrial consultants and "the destabilisation of industrial relations by unpatriotic elements in high places in society."

Mention was also made, according to Mr. Als, of the problems being presented by the insistence of some companies on the use of contract labour, and the "unfair" taxation of overtime, backpay and severance payments were also raised.

According to the CPTU: "The minister indicated that he was interested in seeing a good industrial relations climate in Trinidad and Tobago and expressed the intention of working closely with the labour movement.

CSO: 3025/116

REPORT ON 'EXPRESS' EDITORIAL: CARIBBEAN ON ITS KNEES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 11 Dec 81 p 3

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Thursday (CANA) — What Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Basil Ince, did not say in his statement to the Organisation of American States General Assembly in St. Lucia on Monday, is that the Caribbean territories are 'poor, literally on their knees seeking assistance, and acutely vulnerable to the blandishments of the cold war antagonists,' the Trinidad Express said in its editorial yesterday.

Claiming that the remarks were nevertheless implied in Dr. Ince's address to the meeting, the newspaper concluded that although Dr. Ince mentioned no names that 'clearly he was talking about the United States and the Soviet Union as well as their surrogates in the region who preach non-alignment out of one side of their mouths and lackeyism out of the other side.'

Trinidad and Tobago, from the vantage point of an oil-rich economy, is able to rise above what is after all the late 20th century version of the imperialistic competition that has plagued this chain of islands since Columbus made his first trip to the west 400 years ago,' the daily noted.

Dr. Ince was in a position to warn about the use of aid as a means of subverting the independence of states and institutions operating among them. He referred pointedly to

'the major powers and those under their guidance,' who see the region in strictly strategic and geopolitical terms and imported their tensions into it, it added.

There was also the question of interference in the domestic affairs of states, there was the need as well to be ever vigilant against becoming involved in the cold war strategies based on great power rivalry.

The daily said that only the idealist would expect big power aid in whatever form to be without strings. It said that the stark fact was that there was a cold war on, one with nuclear potential, and the superpowers were looking for friends.

'If by dropping some money here and favourable trade terms there either the United States or the Soviet Union can establish a base for their operations, including subversion, they will try,' it declared.

The Express went on to say that 'a Caribbean government, or one in any other region, faced with high unemployment, a foreign exchange crisis, and the effects of recession in the United States would take whatever it could get.'

Hence this region has become a playground for offshore banks, offshore medical schools, a target for mercenaries, and are little more than pawns in the cold war chess game,' said the Express.

It continued: 'If the region is to win the respect of the superpowers, it first must respect itself. It must make the regional institutions work, because no matter the poverty of the territories, pooling of resources, integrated planning of economic development will open the way to self help and self-respect.'

At the same time, the CARICOM territories that were of more immediate concern to Trinidad and Tobago had their political problems.

Without interfering in domestic political arrangements, it is possible to deplore that state of continual crisis in which, the government of St. Lucia has found itself since the last election, as well as the situation in Grenada, where more than two years after a coup there is no rule of law and the absence of the freedoms enshrined in Constitutions such as that of Trinidad and Tobago,' it said.

The Express deemed it unfortunate that the region remained in political and economic turmoil and said this constituted fair game for adventurers operating either out of respectable foreign capitals, or in murky centres where mercenaries gathered.

Dr. Ince made it clear Trinidad and Tobago is unhappy with all this. Will he now urge his Cabinet colleagues to move from the area of talk to the realm of action?' The editorial asked.

PANDAY PART OF 'HISTORIC' ACTION BY UNION TRADING COMPANY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Dec 81 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

AN HISTORICAL event was recorded in the sugar belt on Monday, when the All Trinidad Union Trading Company, distributed goods including electrical appliances to the workers at cost price.

This took place at the Rienzi Complex, Couva, with president general of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, Basdeo Panday and Mr. Sam Maharaj, general secretary, witnessing the distribution.

Mr. Panday believes it was a "red letter" day in the lives of the sugar workers who over the past century never benefit from such facilities.

It was explained that the original idea was to form a co-operative but that was taking too much time and the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, decided to form the trading company, with the union as sole shareholder.

Object of the company is to offer goods and services to the members and their families.

"It is good to note that the members of the union, moreso the sugar workers, are today enjoying a better standard of living with higher wages and in many cases, comparable wages," Mr. Panday who is also Opposition Leader stated.

He recalled that the giant step forward was the establishment of the million-dollar Rienzi Complex for the members of the union.

Second major project was the establishment of the trading company, it was stated.

Mr. Panday said he was determined to see that the members of his union "live a decent and more comfortable life."

"The workers must not in any way feel that they were second class citizens. There is no room today in this society for such thinking."

Since Mr. Panday took over the reins of leadership, the union has been making significant progress.

He opened up membership to workers in other industries and today the union boasts of having more than 20,000.

The Trading Company will purchase stocks from different firms at cost price and in turn sell them to the workers at the same price.

Such items as stoves, washing machines, fridges were distributed on Monday to the workers.

Mr. Panday said that the sugar workers in this country suffered for too long. He observed, too, that when the millions of dollars in backpay was announced, certain firms "jacked up" prices on household appliances.

"Why should those merchants do such a thing?" he asked. He explained that he had no quarrel with the business people.

"But I have to protect the workers and see to it that they enjoy a decent standard of living," the trade union leader commented.

PANDAY GETS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM ULF CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Dec 81 p 3

[Text]

THE CENTRAL Committee of the United Labour Front (ULF) has passed a vote of confidence in the leadership of Mr Basdeo Panday and, in particular, his choice of Opposition senators for the new Parliament.

At the committee's monthly meeting held at the Rienzi Complex over the weekend party officials expressed strong support for their leader, who is also Opposition Leader in the House of Representatives.

General Secretary Kelvin Ramnath

(M.P.-Couva South) told the central committee that he had received no communication dealing with an alleged no-confidence motion in the leadership of the party.

Some sections of the news media last week carried stories from a so called Central Committee of the ULF in Chaguanas calling for Mr Panday to withdraw the nominations of four of the Opposition senators. Officials of this "committee" were Soogrim Dhansar (chairman) and George Harbansingh (secretary).

Last month's general election was also discussed at the weekend meeting, which called on Mr Panday to pursue his motion filed when the House of Representatives held its first session on November 27.

The motion calls for urgent electoral reform in order to minimise gerrymandering, fraud and inefficiency in the electoral process.

Another decision taken was to proceed with the

further strengthening of the National Alliance, of which the ULF is a member together with the Democratic Action Committee (DAC) and the Tapia House Movement.

The meeting decided too that there should be a special drive to recruit women and young people as activists for the party, in order to add vitality to the organisation and ensure a positive future.

CSO: 3025/116

BRIEFS

SUPPORT FOR CHAMBERS--The General Council of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) yesterday morning unanimously passed a vote of confidence in Prime Minister George Chambers and his Cabinet. The meeting, the first to be held since the November 9 general elections in which the PNM won 26 of the 36 seats in Parliament, also passed a resolution permitting the executive of the council to hold office for another year--until the--1982 convention. Mr. Horace Grant, public relations officer of the party, explained that because of the late elections and delayed general council meeting it was decided to waive the election of officers until the next convention. A General Council meeting called for November 22 had to be adjourned to yesterday for it was felt that party members needed a rest after the hectic election campaign. At the 90-minute meeting yesterday, five senators who are now ministers made their debut in Balisier House. The senators--John Eckstein, Russell Martineau, Wendell Mottley, Dr. Neville Connel and Anthony Jacelon--are now full members of the ruling PNM party. PRO Grant said the General Council passed a vote of confidence in the Prime Minister and his entire Cabinet. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Dec 81 p 1]

NEW ZEALAND DEPARTURE--Port-of-Spain Trinidad Sunday (CANA)--New Zealand, in a move to cut expenditure, will shortly close the High Commission it established here 23 years ago, and conduct its affairs with Trinidad and Tobago from Canada, it has been officially announced. New Zealand Foreign Minister B. E. Talboys says however that the decision marks no change in the status of relations between the two countries. The Trinidad office was essentially a trade mission and had now achieved its purpose, he said in a statement issued here. The office in Port of Spain was established in 1958 to promote trade, and this has remained its primary function. Exports from New Zealand to the region last year totalled \$46 million. Most of this represented dairy products and meat for which the trading relationships are now well established," said Mr. Talboys. He said that the relatively limited scope for increasing New Zealand exports to this country did not warrant the considerable cost of maintaining the Trinidad mission. It is expected that the office will be closed by the end of the financial year, and trade and diplomatic representation will be provided by the New Zealand High Commissioner in Ottawa, Canada. The Ottawa mission also handles New Zealand's interest in Guyana and Barbados and the High Commissioner makes regular visits to these countries. Mr. Talboys believed there were obvious advantages in bringing together the diplomatic and trade representation for Trinidad and Tobago and the three other Caribbean states. With the new

arrangement there should also be benefits from the strong commercial links between Canada and the Caribbean region, he said. The closure of the Trinidad office will allow scarce financial and staff resources to be used elsewhere in the overseas service, such as in Mexico, where a new diplomatic mission was soon to be opened.

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